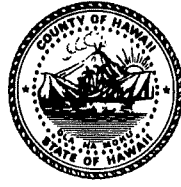


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

May 19, 2023

Michael Burke, Coordinator
Office of Solid Waste Management
c/o Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch
Hawai'i Department of Health
2827 Waimano Home Road #100
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

Via Certified Mail: 7018 3090 0000 4998 1133

Mr. Burke,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (COHDEM) is advised by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), whose members support expanding the use of Advanced Disposal Fees (ADF) charged to consumers to address costs related to disposal at the point of sale (POS), and fund public awareness campaigns. Such fees are already assessed on the sale of beverage containers and vehicle tires.

EMC finds that the authority to "assess the feasibility of employing disposal fees, including fees at the point of introduction or sale of any product that would require eventual disposition as solid waste, as possible funding sources for waste management activities" is reserved to the Office of Solid Waste Management, under Section 342G-14(6), Hawai'i Revised Statutes. EMC requests me to confer with your Office on the following matters. I concur and request you to address:

- 1) Has OSWM recently assessed the feasibility of expanding the categories of products currently covered by ADF and/or POS fees for the purposes of:
 - a. Offsetting costs of waste management; and
 - b. Educating the public on the impact of disposing of the products they purchase?

If so, can Hawai'i County get a copy of the assessment and/or report to share with EMC?

- 2) If, on the other hand, OSWM has not recently conducted such a study, COHDEM urges the Office to do so, and report back on the assessment.

Potential products for fees include electronics, paper and plastic goods, paint, carpets, and other goods that could be recycled if we had sufficient funds to support reuse/recycling programs.

EMC stresses its interest in fees that could be charged to the consumer up front, rather than solely to the manufacturer or distributor.

Additionally, if you would provide a timely reply to this letter, we can provide an update to EMC on the status of this request at its meeting on June 23, 2023. On behalf of COHDEM and EMC, I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ramzi Mansour', written over a horizontal line.

Ramzi Mansour, Director
County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management

CC: (via email)

Glenn Haae, Acting Chief, Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch, Department of Health
Georjean Adams, Chair, Environmental Management Commission, County of Hawai'i