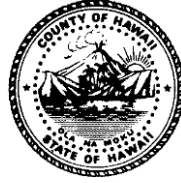


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Georjean Adams
Chair

Ramzi I. Mansour
*Director, Department of
Environmental Management*

Jon Olson
Vice Chair

County of Hawai'i

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

345 Kekūanā'oa St. Suite 41 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Ph: (808) 961-8083 • Fax: (808) 961-8086

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 2023

TO: Heather Kimball, Council Chair
and Hawai'i County Council Members

FROM: Georjean Adams, Chair
Environmental Management Commission

RE: Proposed Draft Bill to Begin Banning the Landfill of Recyclable Materials

Ramzi Mansour, Director of Environmental Management, has projected that the only operating solid waste sanitary landfill in Hawaii County (West Hawaii Sanitary Landfill or WHSL) is expected to have capacity for only another 20 -25 years.

The Environmental Management Commission's preferred approach to extending the lifetime of the WHSL is to set a target for the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to reduce the amount of waste that is disposed there. While the DEM can use multiple methods to achieve this reduction, the EMC recommends developing a phased program to ban the landfilling of designated categories of reusable/recyclable materials. On July 26, 2023, the Environmental Management Commission supported developing an ordinance under Hawai'i County Code Chapter 20 to begin the process of requiring diversion for designated reusable/recyclable materials from county landfill(s).

The ordinance would be structured to require the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to: 1) reduce the volumes of waste going to the landfill and to report its progress to the Council and EMC, 2) develop rules that designate categories of reusable/recyclable materials that are prohibited from landfilling by designated waste generators, and 3) periodically expand or revise these lists as feasibility may change.

A draft bill for an ordinance is attached as a starting point for discussion. The draft also includes preliminary thoughts for funding the DEM to implement the bill, as well as recognizing the need to renegotiate current collection and recycling county contracts and considering incentive credits for expanded private services to collect and recycle wastes on island.

Note that the draft bill has not been approved verbatim by the EMC, but rather is offered to help focus discussions with stakeholders. The intent is to get this conversation started.

Please advise us of the next steps with the Council regarding exploring a proposed bill to ban landfilling of designated recyclable wastes.

Sincerely,

Georjean Adams, Chair
Environmental Management Commission

Transmitted pursuant to approval of motions on September 27, 2023 and November 29, 2023.

Attachment: Draft ordinance for Council: Recyclables landfill ban

c: Ramzi Mansour, Director of Environmental Management