DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 17-15

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Belatti, Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 749, Relating to Solid Waste

The City and County of Honolulu's (City) Department of Environmental Services strongly supports HB749, which updates Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342G-2, Solid Waste Management Priorities, to accurately reflect the solid waste management practices and processing methods that the City has implemented in the 25 years since this section was authored.

H-POWER, the City's innovative waste-to-energy and recycling facility, is at the foundation of the City's solid waste management system and is its principal mechanism for diverting material from the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill. H-POWER processes more than 700,000 tons of municipal solid waste annually, safely and cleanly converting this material into enough renewable electricity to fulfill 10% of Oahu's needs – 70 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 60,000 homes. In addition to recycling waste into energy, H-POWER recovers and recycles about 20,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the waste stream every year. The electricity H-POWER produces contributes directly to State's renewable energy portfolio and will continue to be a significant factor in helping the State to achieve its long term goals for energy sustainability.

H-POWER began commercial operation in 1990 and has since been expanded twice – once in 2012 with the addition of a third boiler to enable it to receive and

process bulky wastes, and again in 2015 with the addition of a first-of-its-kind Sludge Intake Station to enable it to receive and process dewatered sewage sludge. Through robust recycling and waste-to-energy, the City has been able to achieve one of the highest landfill diversion rates in the country.

ENV will be present to testify at the hearing on January 31, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

January 30, 2017

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: **HB 749 – SUPPORT**

On behalf of the member companies of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), I am writing to express our support for HB 749, legislation that would direct the state and each county to consider "waste-to-energy" as a potential solid waste management practice and process.

ACC has a long history of working to increase recycling rates for plastic products, help identify markets for recovered plastics, and has actively engaged on projects and programs aimed at reducing marine debris and litter. Investments in recycling have paid off as Americans have recycled more pounds of plastics every year since tracking began in 1990.

Plastics that can be recycled should be recycled, but opportunities to recover non-recycled plastics are growing too. An emerging set of technologies is allowing governments and businesses to convert non-recycled plastics into energy, fuels, and feedstocks, or raw materials for new manufacturing.

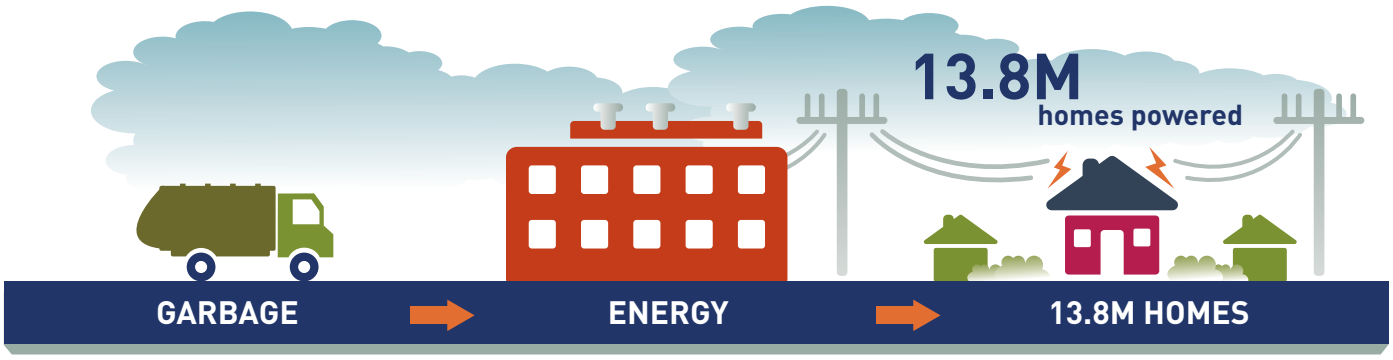
A range of energy recovery technologies are being used to complement recycling in helping to divert more valuable post-use materials from landfills. Some of the most widely used and rapidly emerging technologies include waste-to-energy, plastics-to-fuels, gasification, and solid recovery fuels.

A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. The study concluded that enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power could be generated if the current energy recovery capacity were to be expanded so that all of the non-recycled municipal solid waste that is currently sent to landfills each year was instead converted to energy. A fact sheet on this study is attached.

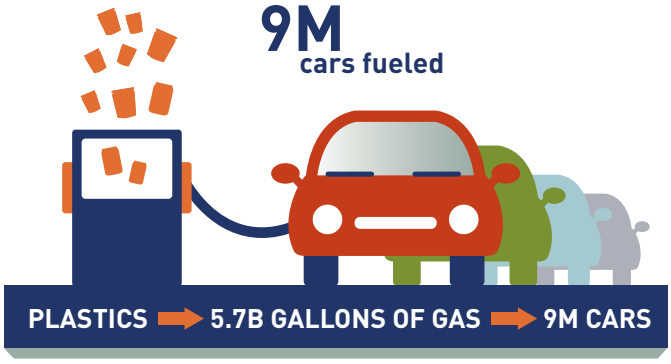
ACC appreciates the opportunity to share these comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact our Hawaii-based representatives Red Morris or Blake Oshiro at (808) 531-4551.

The Power of Waste

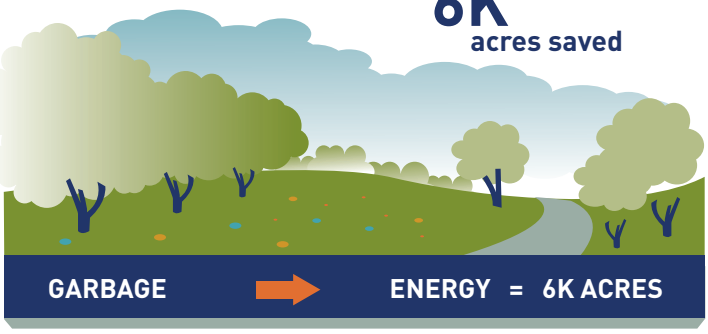
A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. It demonstrates the tremendous potential of modern technologies that convert waste into energy to help boost energy security, reduce landfill waste and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



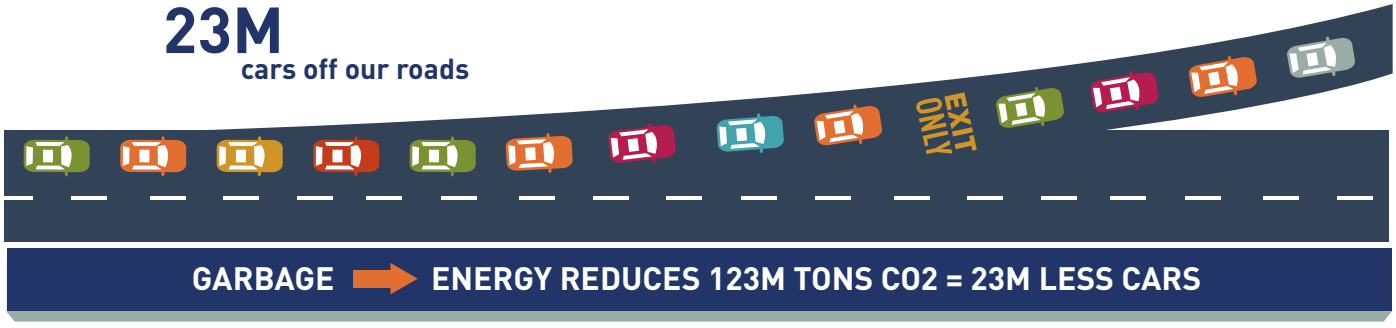
If current capacity were to be expanded so that all of the non-recycled municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills each year could instead be converted to energy, we could generate enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power.



If current capacity were to be expanded so that the U.S. could convert all its non-recycled plastics into oil each year, we could produce 5.7 billion gallons of gas annually. That's enough to fuel nearly 9 million cars each year.



If capacity were to be expanded so that we could convert our non-recycled waste to alternative energy instead of landfilling it, we would have the opportunity to preserve more than 6,000 acres of open space every year that would otherwise be used to store garbage.



If capacity were to be expanded so that we could convert all of our non-recycled waste into energy instead of landfilling it, we could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by nearly 123 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This is comparable to removing 23 million cars from our roads.

American Chemistry Council | Plastics Division

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:50 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lane.otsu@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB749 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

HB749
Submitted on: 1/30/2017
Testimony for EEP on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lane Otsu	Dept. of Health	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Department of Health testimony HB 749 EEP Hearing, January 31, 2017, 8:30am

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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