

JAN 27 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOLID WASTE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that while wind turbines
2 are considered a valuable source of renewable energy, there are
3 many unintended consequences of the development of wind
4 turbines, specifically the disposal of wind turbine parts that
5 are not recyclable. The average lifespan of a wind turbine is
6 twenty to twenty-five years. The legislature notes that ninety
7 per cent of a wind turbine's parts can be recycled or sold;
8 however, the same cannot be said of a wind turbine's blades.

9 The legislature further finds that the United States will
10 have more than seven hundred twenty thousand tons of blade
11 material to dispose of over the next twenty years, and this does
12 not include newer, taller, higher-capacity wind turbines
13 currently in development. Currently, there are not many
14 affordable options to recycle or dispose of turbine blades as
15 they are typically made of a tough but pliable mix of resin and
16 fiberglass. Decommissioned blades are also difficult and
17 expensive to transport given their size, which requires



1 specialized equipment to transport the blades to a landfill.
2 The legislature finds that due to the size of the turbine
3 blades, any disposal of a blade, or any part of the blade, will
4 further exacerbate the already limited space in Hawaii's
5 landfills.

6 The legislature finds that the State continues to struggle
7 to reduce the waste of its residents and its burgeoning waste in
8 the future. For example, in October 2019, the land use
9 commission found that the Waimanalo Gulch could not accept more
10 solid waste and decided that the facility must shut down by
11 March 2, 2028. To develop a new landfill, the city must pick a
12 location, acquire the property if it does not already own it,
13 conduct an environmental impact statement, design the facility,
14 and construct the project. Cost projections to develop each
15 site varies by location and ranges from \$33,600,000 to
16 \$76,800,000. Although the counties have made earnest efforts to
17 reduce waste through initiatives such as adopting laws aimed at
18 banning the use of plastic bags and plastic and polystyrene food
19 waste, landfills across the State are close to reaching
20 capacity, leaving counties to come up with locations for new
21 landfill sites.



1 Therefore, because the fiberglass wind turbine blades and
2 construction and demolition material are not able to be recycled
3 and have the capacity of using up large amounts of local
4 municipal trash, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
5 disposal of a wind turbine blade in any landfill in the State.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§342G- Disposal of wind turbine blades; prohibition.
10 The disposal of a wind turbine blade, or parts of a wind turbine
11 blade, in any landfill in the State shall be prohibited."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

14

INTRODUCED BY: *G. Riviere*



S.B. NO. 958

Report Title:

Wind Turbine Blade; Blade Parts; Disposal; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the disposal of a wind turbine blade, or parts of a wind turbine blade, in any landfill in the State.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

