

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL O'KEEFE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 23-19

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, and Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1247 - Relating to Waste-To-Energy

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services submits the following comments to SB 1247, relating to Waste-To-Energy.

The City's waste-to-energy facility, H-POWER, receives and processes virtually all municipal solid waste (MSW) on Oahu. In 2022, H-POWER processed approximately 730,000 tons of MSW, reducing the volume of that waste by 90%, thereby conserving valuable landfill space, and generating up to 68.5 MW of firm renewable electricity (about 7% of Oahu's grid or enough to power 60,000 homes), helping to further the statewide goal for 100% renewable energy by 2045. H-POWER has the capacity to process 840,000 tons of MSW per year.

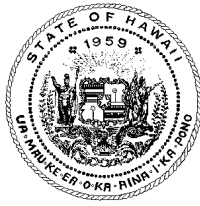
H-POWER is also a significant revenue source for the City. H-POWER generates about \$130 million in revenues annually, including electricity sales (\$75 million), disposal fees (\$50 million), and recycled metals (\$5 million).

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-3486 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.  
Director

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

William F. Oku  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1247  
RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY

By

Tommy Johnson, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair,  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante

Tuesday, February 14, 2023; 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and via Video Conference

Chair DeCoite, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members  
of Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to offer **comments** on Senate Bill (SB) 1247, which requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to build a waste-to-energy generating facility on land owned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

PSD believes that engaging with our private partners to fund a waste-to-energy generating facility positively leverages state resources and facilitates collaboration towards our state's efforts to improve energy efficiency. Further, such a facility would divert solid waste from our landfills thereby preserving our environment and natural resources. This project aligns with the state's energy security and resilience initiatives and the waste-to-energy facility will contribute to on-going efforts to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel.

Testimony on SB 1247

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

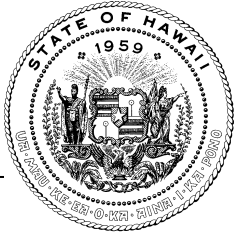
Senate Committee on Water and Land

February 14, 2023

Page 2

However, we would defer to the Department of Land and Natural Resources on whether the state has such lands available in their inventory which could be utilized for such a facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1247.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3807  
Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
AND  
WATER AND LAND**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Providing COMMENTS on  
**SB 1247**

**RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY.**

Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers the following comments on SB 1247.

HSEO appreciates the contribution waste-to-energy (WTE) technology has made to Hawai'i's renewable energy goals. Hawai'i's only WTE facility, H-POWER in Kapolei, O'ahu, began generating electricity in 1990 and in 2021 generated just under 6% of O'ahu's electricity.<sup>1</sup> HSEO also generally supports the use of state lands for renewable energy projects.

HSEO acknowledges it has limited expertise and experience in public-private partnerships as means to carry out its statutory duties. Building such capacity within HSEO would require additional resources and staffing.

If a WTE project is to provide electricity to the utility grid, the potential developer should be aware that the development of a new utility-scale renewable energy project requires extensive planning and stakeholder coordination. Currently, Hawaiian Electric's

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 Renewable Portfolio Standard Status Report, Hawaiian Electric, [DocumentViewer \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, “working to define the plan for putting together Hawai'i's clean energy grid,<sup>2</sup>” includes a description of the selection process.<sup>3</sup> HSEO recommends discussions for any new WTE facilities within Hawaiian Electric's service territory (O'ahu, Maui Nui, Hawai'i Island) be informed by the IGP process. In addition, a new renewable energy project that proposes to sell electricity to regulated public utilities must go through a competitive bidding (request for proposals) process unless the utility applies for and receives a waiver for a specific project.

Finally, HSEO notes that several recent attempts to develop new WTE facilities have been unsuccessful due to various reasons including lack of sufficient feedstock (waste) for the projects to be cost-effective. The counties of Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui, as well as the City and County of Honolulu, may have additional information on the current and projected amounts and types of waste available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

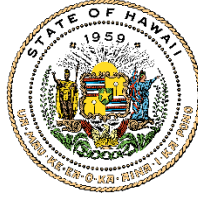
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<sup>2</sup> [Integrated Grid Planning | Hawaiian Electric](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://igp.hawaiianelectric.com/images/Board-Grid-Scale-Renewables-4.png>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY  
M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
and  
WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
1:00 PM

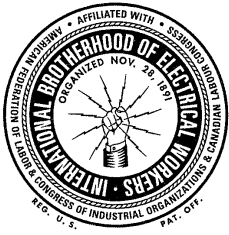
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1247  
RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY

Senate Bill 1247 proposes to require the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). **The Department offers the following comments this measure.**

The Department supports the development of waste-to-energy facilities in the State but notes that available lands under the Department's jurisdiction for such a project are limited. Lands best suited for waste-to-energy facilities are those in the urban core with industrial zoning and the necessary infrastructure (connection to the electrical grid, along with water, sewer, drainage) in place or available for connection nearby. The Department notes that it generally does not have these kinds of lands readily available in its inventory but is nevertheless willing to work with HSEO to identify public lands under the Department's management that could potentially be developed for waste-to-energy projects with a substantial investment in securing land entitlements and necessary infrastructure. Any such lands may be limited to rural areas primarily on the neighbor islands (with little or no infrastructure) as the Department already opened its inventory of unencumbered lands and transferred selected parcels to other departments for various purposes including housing, education, public facilities and agriculture.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

**LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO**

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003  
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM. SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Hearing on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 1:00p.m., Via Videoconference

RE: TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF SB 1247

Honorable Chairs Lynn DeCoite and Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chairs Glenn Wakai and Brandon J.C. Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in electrical construction, telecommunications, Spectrum, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 **SUPPORTS** this bill for the development of an energy generating plant that will result in multiple benefits. Expansion of existing landfills and the search for new locations for additional landfills has been a heavily debated matter. Waste-to-energy facilities help relieve the need for landfill space, while also providing much needed alternative sources of energy for our businesses and residents.

Public-Private Partnerships are proven successes in assisting government in developing necessary capital improvement projects, preserving what is often limited public monies available for all the needs of the communities.

IBEW 1186 recommends the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA), which brings added efficiency, savings, workforce development, and quality to any large-scale project.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

Nicole Chatterson  
Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu  
[oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com)  
808.561.7730

**LATE**



## Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of **SB 1247: RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY**

joint Committee Hearing of EET/WTL

February 14, 2023 at 1:00 AM, CCR 229 & Videoconference

February 13, 2023

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Chair Inouye and Members of the EET and WTL Committees,

As the Executive Director of Zero Waste O‘ahu, a local non-profit working to rebuild an equitable and waste-free Hawai‘i, I am testifying in **strong opposition to SB 1247: RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY**. This bill is concerning. It forces the hand of the State Energy Office to engage in a particular set of waste management technologies, referred to as waste-to-energy (WTE), that are well understood to present a number of issues while also requiring the take of precious DLNR lands. This bill forces WTE upon the people of Hawai‘i without stakeholder engagement or due diligence.

O‘ahu already hosts a WTE facility called H-POWER. The public interest would be best served by first evaluating the pros, cons, and capacity of our existing infrastructure.

As we can see from H-POWER data, positioning WTE as a “renewable” or “clean” power source is an unfounded claim. Please see the graphs below from a factsheet<sup>1</sup> about H-POWER developed by the Energy Justice Network. They compare the energy generated from H-POWER against other power generating facilities on the island. H-POWER produces more acid gasses and global warming pollution than any other plant on the island.

Why should the state be required to further engage in a form of energy production that works against our climate goals?

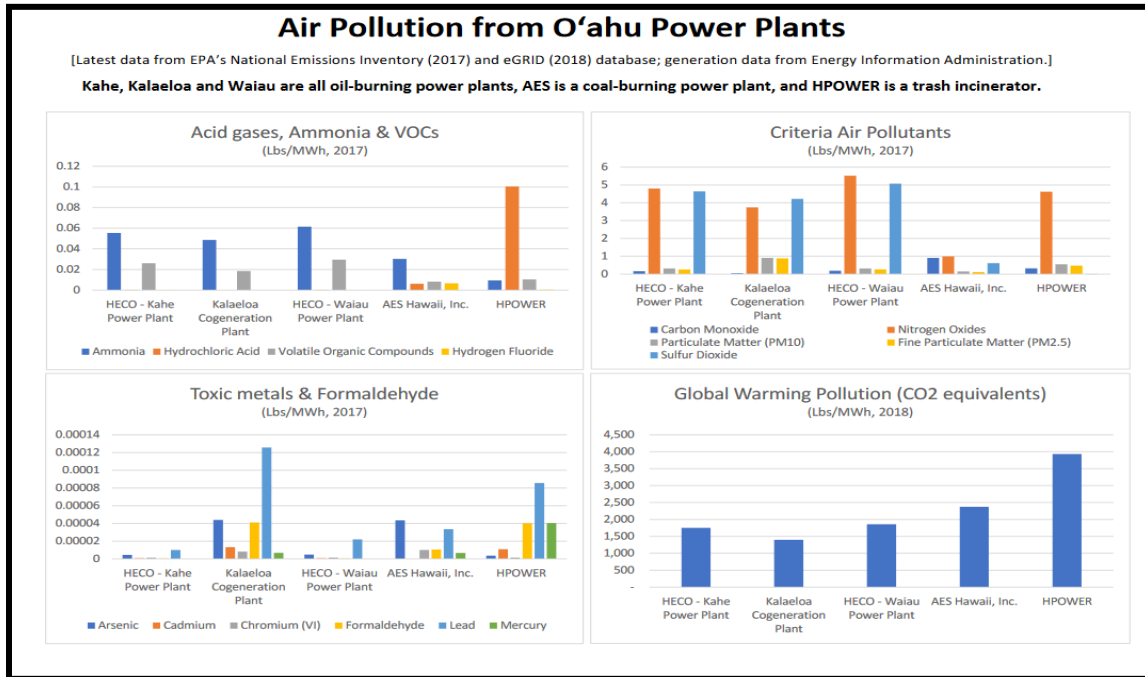
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/HPOWERemissions.pdf>



**Nicole Chatterson**  
**Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu**  
[oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.zerowaste@gmail.com)  
808.561.7730

**Figure 1: H-POWER emissions charts**



The bill preamble cites “reducing our solid waste stream” as a community benefit of WTE. This is incorrect. Reducing our solid waste stream would include policies like mandatory reuse, packaging reduction, and other sustainable procurement practices. WTE does nothing to reduce the amount of solid waste in need of management. It reduces the volume of waste buried in the landfill. This can extend the life of the landfill, but as we see in the attached graphs, this also comes at the expense of severe pollution. If this legislature is interested in supporting the reduction of waste, pursue policies that do so directly.

Across the board WTE technologies are well documented to be expensive, to emit problematic levels of GHG emissions (thus not qualifying as clean energy), and (in the case of RDF and mass burn facilities) to emit a number of hazardous pollutants through both smokestacks and fly ash. Forcing the State Energy Office to further engage in this technology without proper due diligence is neither in the best interest of the public nor in the best interest of building sustainable and right-sized waste management infrastructure and clean energy. Please table this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nicole Chatterson, Executive Director, Zero Waste O‘ahu

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:58:26 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Navarra	Testifying for Zero Waste Hawaii Island	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Waste-to-energy is not the solution to our waste problems. Not only does it release toxins and greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, but it is also a waste of precious resource that can be reused, repurposed or recycled. It is frustrating to have to continually spend time fighting these false and dangerous solutions. We need to reduce the amount of waste we generate and recapture those resources. Waste-to-energy also creates ash that still needs to be landfilled and it is full of toxins that leach into the ground.

We are facing landfill capacity issues on every island and must not fall for these false solutions that poison the air and water, while also costing taxpayers way too much money. Zero Waste is the solution, let's put our efforts there!

Jennifer Navarra  
Program Director  
Zero Waste Hawai'i Island

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:46:20 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 member and supporters statewide, we stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the passing of SB1247 that requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to enter into a public/private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Hawaii State Legislature voted overwhelmingly to declare that we are already in a Climate Emergency, and as such has a mandate to cut carbon emissions. Climate scientists have warned that if we don't dramatically cut our carbon emissions in just the next few shorts years, that we will be on a collision course toward permanent, perpetual, ever increasing, Climate Chaos. Building a waste to energy facility is counter productive to that goal. Burning trash generates more air pollution than burning coal, and emits climate killing carbon emissions.

The only way to prevent an unending climate catastrophe is to dramatically cut our carbon emissions as soon as possible. Building a waste to energy power plant will greatly undermine that effort.

Please vote in opposition to SB1247 for the sake of our climate and the sake of our children's future.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, Cofounder & Hawaii State Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

DATE: February 14, 2023

TO: Senator Lynn DeCoite  
Chair, Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Technology

Senator Lorraine Inouye  
Chair, Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **S.B. 1247 - Relating to Waste-to-Energy**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room: 229**

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Dear Chair DeCoite, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Joint Committees:

We submit this testimony in **opposition** to S.B. 1247 on behalf of Covanta, who is the operator of HPOWER.

Every year, HPOWER processes more than 745,000 tons, or 85% of Oahu's post-recycled municipal solid waste that would otherwise have ended up in the Waimanalo Gulch landfill. In addition to being a source of odor and groundwater contamination, landfills are the third largest source of methane in the U.S. The EPA estimates that for every 1 ton of electricity processed at a waste-to-energy plant rather than sent to a landfill, approximately 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e is avoided. This negative carbon effect is largely due to avoiding the generation of methane - a GHG that is 84 times more potent than Co<sub>2</sub>.

The power generated at HPOWER supplies the electricity grid on Oahu with up to 10% of the island's electricity needs. The plant reduces the volume of waste going to Waimanalo Gulch by 90% and recycles various ferrous and non-ferrous metals, resulting in GHG savings of 603,000 tons annually.

S.B. 1247 requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. While we appreciate that this measure makes statements about the benefits of waste-to-energy, we believe that it is completely unnecessary to build a new waste-to-energy plant on DLNR lands, given the existence of HPOWER. We also believe it will be costly to implement this measure and ask that the Committee at a minimum include an appropriation to the measure. Finally, we believe that a full fiscal and overall impact estimate should be done before proceeding to develop any new waste-to-energy facility on Oahu.

For these reasons, Covanta opposes this bill and respectfully requests that it be held. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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February 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and Members of the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism  
and  
The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: SB 1247 – Relating to Waste-to-Energy

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 1:00 pm, Room 225 & videoconference

Position: **Strong Opposition**

Aloha, Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has 7,500 enrolled members who are politically active and strong supporters of the environment. As Co-chairs of the Caucus, we strongly oppose SB 1247. This bill would amend HRS §196-71(b) to state that “The Hawaii State Energy Office shall ... (5) enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.”

The Environmental Caucus recognizes the frustration that many Members of the Legislature, as well as the general public, are experiencing because Hawaii is inundated with vast quantities of trash. Some Legislators, and many people in the general public, believe that increasing the burning of trash to generate energy solves two vexatious problems at once: Getting rid of the trash and generating electrical power, seemingly at less cost than importing and burning fossil fuels.

We wish that these twin problems could be resolved so simply and easily. But they can't be. First, burning trash generates more air pollution than burning oil or coal does. Second, mandating that a State agency shall enter into a public-private partnership to do something expensive, such as building a power plant – probably costing something on the order of \$100 million, puts the State further down the path of burning materials, rather than shifting, as we must, to solar and other energy production that is much more environmentally friendly, as well as being better for our health. Third, when a State agency must comply with a firmly stated mandate, it is stuck in an extremely bad negotiating position. One or more companies can



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony in opposition to SB 1247- Waste to Energy - EET/WTL  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 1:00 pm, Room 225  
Page 2

demand that the State Energy Office must agree to enter into a long-term contract on very disadvantageous terms, and such a company could easily sue the Energy Office to force compliance. We add, also, that public-private partnerships are just a very bad way for a government agency to do business. Far too many such arrangements result in the public agency absorbing great risks, while the private entity reaps the profits.

For these important reasons, we urge you to DEFER this bill. Thank you very much in advance for providing us the opportunity to testify on this bill.

*Alan B. Burdick* and *Melodie Huiya*, co-chairs  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com) 808-927-1500  
[legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com) 808-258-8889

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:09:34 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii respectfully OPPOSES this bill.

We don't need another incinerator! Incineration is the most expensive way to dispose of trash, twice as much as landfilling. Burning trash is also even more polluting than coal.

Hawaii should investigate how to reduce and reuse rather than generating additional solid waste.

Please hold this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 4:21:04 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Blickley	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Surfrider Foundation STRONGLY OPPOSES SB1247 that requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

These technologies are touted as being environmentally beneficial by various industries, but waste [incineration](#)—even if it’s masquerading as “chemical recycling”—is a false solution that we should firmly reject.

Regardless of what is being burned (mixed municipal solid waste, plastic, outputs from [“chemical recycling”](#)), waste incineration creates and/or releases [harmful chemicals and pollutants](#), including:

- Air pollutants such as [particulate matter](#), which cause lung and heart diseases
- Heavy metals such as [lead](#) and [mercury](#), which cause neurological diseases
- Toxic chemicals, such as [PFAS](#) and [dioxins](#), which cause cancer and other health problems

These chemicals and pollutants enter the air, water and food supply near incinerators and get into people’s bodies when they breathe, drink, and eat contaminants.

[Studies](#) find that proximity to waste incineration may increase risks of cancers, birth defects, and other adverse health impacts. Often, low-income and communities of color bear the brunt of this toxic burden, with [80% of](#) U.S. municipal solid waste incinerators situated in communities where more than 25% of people identify as “minority,” living below the federal poverty rate, or both.

Recycling [saves more energy](#) and avoids more greenhouse gases than waste incineration/“chemical recycling.” Because energy is required to run waste incinerators, the [net amount of energy generated through incineration is low or in some cases nonexistent](#)—so even “waste to energy” is often a misnomer.

Of course, the best way to reduce harmful impacts from waste is to produce less waste. But “waste to energy” systems rely on significant quantities of waste to run, which disincentivizes waste reduction. They also [tend to be more expensive](#) and compete directly with recycling facilities for funding and siting resources.

Surfrider Foundation strongly urges you to **OPPOSE** this measure and instead support other bills this session that focus on waste reduction, including extended producer responsibility.



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Economic Development, and Tourism (EET)  
and  
The Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 1pm

### **In strong opposition to SB1247**

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante, and members of the EET and WTL committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly opposes SB1247** that requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Waste-to-energy is a greenwashing term used by the industry for waste/trash incineration. Trash incineration is one of the most expensive and polluting ways to make energy or manage waste. It's more polluting than coal (even for the climate) and produces 10 times fewer jobs than reuse, recycling and composting.<sup>1</sup>

Regardless of what is being burned (mixed municipal solid waste, plastic, etc.), waste incineration creates and/or releases harmful chemicals and pollutants into the air. Incinerators are really “trash-to-toxic ash-and-toxic-air-pollution” facilities. Studies have found in communities around incinerators an increase in pre-term babies and babies born with spina bifida or heart defects, as well as cancers, including childhood cancers.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, incinerators do not avoid landfills. For every 100 tons of trash burned, 30 tons become toxic ash that goes to landfills.<sup>3</sup> The other 70 tons become air pollution.

We don't need technologies that threaten public health and the environment. Incineration is a false solution that the legislature should firmly reject. Communities on Oahu are already exposed to H-POWER's toxic emissions. We need to move away from these harmful

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<sup>1</sup> Tellus Institute, More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the United States, 2011. [www.recyclingworkscampaign.org](http://www.recyclingworkscampaign.org).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/healthstudies.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/ash>

technologies, not towards them. Our money is better spent on true clean power technology with new battery storage. Real solutions must focus on producing less waste, manufacturing less plastic, and using effective and proven methods of recycling—not finding new ways to incinerate these materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**LATE**

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:58:24 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has declared a climate crisis. No amount of need for energy is worth the Green House Gasses that a waste to energy project would produce. It is time for Hawaii to convert to a circular economy which values what is now called waste. Rather than mining the earth for more rare minerals, fracking to produce more plastic, or burning organics, Hawaii can learn to reuse minerals from discarded products, eliminate single use plastics, and turn organics into composted soil amendment. Please oppose bill SB1247 so that our children and their children may live on a habitable earth.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
& WATER AND LAND**

**S.B. 1247**

**Relating to Waste-to-Energy**

February 14, 2023  
1:00 p.m., Agenda Item #2  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Greg Shimokawa  
Director, Renewable Acquisition  
Hawaiian Electric

Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante, and Members of the  
Committees:

My name is Greg Shimokawa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian  
Electric commenting with significant concerns on S.B. 1247, Relating to Waste-to-  
Energy.

S.B. 1247 proposes to amend HRS Section 196-71 subsection (b) by adding a  
subsection to it that would require the Hawaii State Energy Office to enter into a public-  
private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the  
jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

While having more renewable energy projects online will help the state meet its  
2045 100% renewable energy goal, Hawaiian Electric would like further clarification on  
the intent of this bill.

Hawaiian Electric purchases power from the 69-megawatt H-POWER waste-to-  
energy plant owned by the City & County of Honolulu. The plant is capable of burning

approximately 3,000 tons of garbage per day to produce steam that drives two steam turbine generators, which provides the electricity that is sold to Hawaiian Electric and distributed to customers. A shortage of trash has hampered the ability of H-POWER to meet its contractual obligations.<sup>1</sup> Increased recycling and reuse efforts could further limit available trash. Hawaiian Electric contemplates whether adding another waste-to-energy facility on O'ahu would be in the best interest of its customers.

S.B. 1247 does not specify how the energy from this waste-to-energy generating facility will be used. The bill should state whether the energy produced from the facility would be sold to a public utility or directly used for, or sold to, public and/or private entities. If the intent is to sell the capacity and/or energy to Hawaiian Electric, any such project would need to bid into Hawaiian Electric's request for proposals for energy and would not be guaranteed a contract with the utility. Competitive bidding helps ensure that the projects selected to provide energy and capacity to the utility will provide the best benefits to our customers.

Given the above, Hawaiian Electric has significant concerns regarding whether the plant would have enough fuel or the project would have an off taker.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on S.B. 1247.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/04/a-bill-to-finance-a-new-waste-to-energy-plant-on-oahu-raises-questions/>

# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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February 14, 2023

1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism/Senate Committee on Water and Land

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB 1247 - RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY.

Aloha Chair Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and Members of both Committees:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the intent of SB1247 which requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Increasing processing of solid waste through WTE will decrease our need for landfills and have no landfills in our backyard! All four counties are challenged with their solid waste processing and their landfills. Having the state build a WTE facility could lead to statewide coordination of solid waste processing. The proposed WTE facility has the potential to serve the entire state and reduce solid waste going into landfills statewide.

Hawaii has a goal of producing 100% of its electricity from clean renewable sources by 2045. Utilizing WTE, a firm renewable source of energy, will help our state move closer to achieving this important goal.

WTE technology will help to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as our state addresses the significant effects of climate change and rising sea levels.

We urge the committee to PASS SB1247



**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 5:44:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody M Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is sorely needed in a state so affected by Climate Change. I support this bill.

Mahalo,

Jody Green

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:15:31 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support.

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 5:26:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1247. Hawaii already has a waste to energy facility that is environmentally problematic. In general, burning waste produces toxic fumes and byproducts that may leach into the environment. A safer and more promising strategy would be to produce methane fuel from the decomposition of organic waste. However Hawaii will get a lot more bang for its buck by investing in further rollout of proven solar and wind energy generation that have become the most cost effective ways of generating power here. We need to make more use of distributed energy resources by, for example, covering the roofs of all State buildings with solar panels.

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:10:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Feb. 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm

OPPOSING SB 1247

My name is John Kawamoto, and I oppose SB 1247 because it would result in the unnecessary emissions of greenhouse gases, which are warming the Earth and contributing to climate change.

The bill requires the State Energy Office to enter into a public-private partnership to develop a waste-to-energy generating facility. A waste-to-energy facility burns waste to produce electricity, and in this case it would be municipal solid waste. Each ton of municipal solid waste that is burned releases between 0.7 tons and 1.7 tons of carbon dioxide. It is considered to be dirty energy.

Waste-to-energy generating facilities are typically intended to last for 20 to 30 years. During that period, it would delay the urgent transition to lower carbon-intensive power generation, such as wind and solar, which are not only cleaner, but also less expensive.

In addition, a waste-to-energy generating facility would undermine the move to lower-carbon options for waste management, including composting organic waste and recycling other waste.

This bill requires the State Energy Office to take an action that contradicts its mission, which, according to HRS 196-71, is “to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy.” Furthermore, this bill will make it nearly impossible to achieve Hawaii’s net-negative emissions goal by 2045 that was set by the Legislature, which is codified in HRS 225P-5(a).

Instead, Hawaii should be taking many steps to advance as quickly as possible toward a 100% clean, renewable energy future.

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 3:01:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Hunt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is PAST time to stop kicking the can down the road for the next generation to suffer and try to undo.

We can not change our over-consumptive, irresponsible single-use, throw-away waste problem bu burning it and putting the consequences into our air, lungs, and blood.

Neither can we transition our energy production to clean, renewable, carbon-free energy with incineration. Burning (all fuel types) is exactly what has brought us to the precipice of possibly making the earth unlivable for all life.

SB1247 is outdated thinking for our present, urgent problems.

"We will end up where we are headed if we don't change direction."

SB 1247 will not solve a problem / it will create more, bigger problems. Time is running out to mitigate the coming apocalypse. Please "kick this can" into the recycle bin.

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:26:09 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waste to energy is wasted energy. Please watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/784482464> about the problems and solutions in Hawaii. The Hawaii legislature has declared we are in a climate emergency. Burning, or by any other name such as incineration, causes emission of green house gasses, intensifying all the climate crisis effects. If you love your children and grandchildren, please vote against this bill!

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:47:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Waste-to-energy pollutes the air, generates toxic ash, and discourages re-use and recycling. And on state land?? Please vote this down.

mahalo, Cory Harden



**LATE**

**SB-1247**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:47:35 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rafael Bergstrom	Testifying for Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha member of the committee,

Waste to energy is the epitome of greenwashing. In this bill it states that waste to energy is a meaningful way to reduce solid waste streams. This continues to be a reactive narrative formed by those who want to keep consumption levels at the status quo. The true way to reduce solid waste is to stop wasting so much. This state and this country continue to shy away from doing meaningful reform on production and consumption and instead propose pollution-heavy, industrial, and centralized systems that provide nothing more than a band-aid with their own damaging consequences. Around the globe waste to energy facilities are being shut down because of toxic emissions and extremely high costs. Currently, HPOWER on O'ahu produces double the emissions of burning oil for energy and is the most expensive form of energy production in the state. Please help us move forward in our understanding of proactive solutions and stop this reactive measure from continuing on.

Mahalo for your time.