



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Director, OPSD

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The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of  
Leah Laramee  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
&  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Monday, February 13, 2023  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 175  
RELATING TO RECYCLING.**

Senate Bill 175 requires state agencies to implement an on-site recycling program at buildings and facilities managed, maintained, or serviced by the Department of Accounting and General Services. Requires the Department of Health, in conjunction with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, to conduct a study on the benefits and costs in increasing reuse and reduce efforts throughout the State, recycling streams, and solid waste management in Hawai'i and appropriates funds. **The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this bill.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Every stage of a product's life cycle, extraction, manufacturing, distribution, use, and disposal, directly contributes to the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere and affects the global climate. Product manufacturing releases GHGs both from the manufacturing process and from the energy produced to run the plant. Extraction and distribution require gasoline-powered vehicles that release CO<sub>2</sub>. Discarded products typically end up in a landfill, which releases methane as products decompose. Waste prevention and recycling offer significant potential for decreasing GHG emissions. EPA estimates that simply increasing our national recycling rate from its current level of 30 percent to 35 percent would reduce GHG emissions by another 10 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE). That amount is equal to the average annual emissions from the electricity consumed by roughly 4.6 million households.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0175  
RELATING TO RECYCLING**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hearing Date: 2/13/2023

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 This measure appropriates \$500,000 in FY24 and \$500,000 in FY25 to the Department to  
5 conduct the study mentioned below.

6 **Department Testimony:** SB0175 requires (1) state agencies to implement on-site recycling  
7 programs using administrative rules developed by the Department, in conjunction with the Office  
8 of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), at buildings and facilities managed by the  
9 Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS); (2) requires the Department and  
10 OPSD to conduct a study on increasing statewide reuse and reduction efforts, recycling streams,  
11 and solid waste management activities to reach State sustainability goals; and (3) appropriates  
12 funds for the study.

13 Including incineration, the State's 2022 solid waste stream diversion rate was 54.3%, but  
14 the diversion rate was 24.8% when excluding incineration. We note that HPOWER recycles  
15 ferrous and nonferrous metal from the incoming waste and from post-combustion ash.

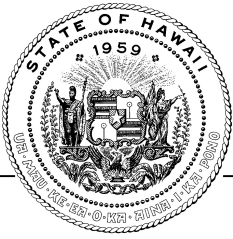
16 The Department would like to note that Hawaii Revised Statutes §342-45 requires that all  
17 state and county agencies establish office paper and other materials recovery programs and  
18 defers to DAGS and other state agencies regarding implementation costs. The Department is

1 committed to improving the statewide diversion rate to meet solid waste management goals and  
2 will coordinate with OPSD to develop rules that can be implemented by DAGS and other state  
3 agencies if SB0175 is enacted.

4         The Department has already begun conducting a similar study prescribed in SB0175 to  
5 increase activities to reach State sustainability goals. Specifically, in late-October 2022 the  
6 Department executed a contract and encumbered funds to update the State Integrated Solid  
7 Waste Management (ISWM) plan. As part of the procurement and contract process, the State  
8 identified eight specific solid waste stream discussion topics to be addressed in the ISWM plan  
9 update. A ninth solid waste stream discussion topic will involve the evaluation and assessment of  
10 current State recycling programs, and a tenth solid waste stream discussion topic has been left  
11 open to address one additional solid waste stream issue that is identified during discussions. The  
12 Department's contractor is tasked with developing a problem statement centered around each  
13 solid waste stream discussion topic, performing a comparative analysis that examines statutory  
14 and/or programmatic approaches that other states take to address similar solid waste stream  
15 issues, and highlighting potential solutions to address solid waste issues while considering the  
16 State's unique demographic and economic variables. An assembled task force that will be  
17 assisting the Department with the State ISWM plan update will use the information provided by  
18 the Department's contractor to address each solid waste stream topic. The Department will be  
19 requesting input and participation from OPSD's State Sustainability Coordinator as part of the  
20 ISWM plan update process. The Department estimates that its ISWM plan update will be  
21 completed in 2024.

22         Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

23         **Offered Amendments:** None.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SCOTT J. GLENN**  
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of  
**SCOTT GLENN, Director**  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Monday, February 13, 2023, 2 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**SB 175**  
**RELATING TO RECYCLING.**

Chairs Gabbard and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Richards and Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Government Operations:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports the intent and **offers the following comments** on SB 175, which requires state agencies to implement an on-site recycling program using rules issued by the Department of Health (DOH), in conjunction with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, at buildings and facilities managed, maintained, or serviced by the Department of Accounting and General Services. Requires the Department of Health, in conjunction with the OPSD, to conduct a study on the benefits and costs in increasing reuse and reduce efforts throughout the State, recycling streams, and solid waste management in Hawai'i. Appropriates funds.

OPSD appreciates the bill's citation of the state recycling goal found in HRS §342G-3, to reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 50% through source reduction, recycling, and bioconversion by January 1, 2000. The OPSD agrees that this statutory target was not fulfilled by the year 2000, and this goal has not yet been achieved. Measurements show that the Solid Waste Diversion Rates hit as high as 43% diversion in FY 2015 and has consistently dropped. The State's present solid waste diversion rate is 24.8% in FY 2022.

SB 175 is in alignment with two recommendations of the State of Hawai'i's decennial climate and sustainability strategic action plan—the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan: Charting a Course for the Decade of Action \(2020-2030\)](#),<sup>1</sup> which recommends that the State should “comply with laws requiring recycling in state-owned facilities” (Recommended Action #116, Page 101) and “incorporate principles of waste minimization and pollution prevention, such as reducing, revising, and recycling as a standard operating practice in programs, including programs for waste

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<sup>1</sup> The Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan was published in 2021 by the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development, and officially serves as the State of Hawai'i's climate adaptation and sustainability strategic action plan, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-65 and the Hawai'i State Planning Act. Available online: <https://hawaii2050.hawaii.gov>

management in construction and demolition projects, and office paper and packaging recycling programs” (Recommended Action #210, Page 105).

The OPSD has a strong collaborative working relationship with the DOH and understands that the study recommended in SB 175 may overlap with efforts underway. The DOH Office of Solid Waste Management recently began a contract to update the 2000 State Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, a part of this work will include collaborative task force and stakeholder meetings to discuss and identify possible solutions for the numerous solid waste stream topics and recycling streams.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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AEN-GOV\_02-13-23

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB175 (Relating to Recycling)

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Environmental Caucus supports all efforts to expand recycling of the widest varieties of materials in our islands.

It is usually easier to start with government agencies and buildings and use them as successful examples of what and be done.

Please pass this bill.

Martha Randolph for the Environmental Caucus

**SB-175**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 3:26:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**SB-175**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 4:22:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support. Thank you.



**SB-175**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:13:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill.

**SB-175**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:11:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN) and the Committee on Government Operations

Mahalo for hearing SB175. Reduce, reuse and recycle are increasing in importance daily in Hawaii daily. Appropriating funds is critical to implementing programs starting by studying the costs and benefits so the most effective programs can be implemented.

Bringing attention to solid waste management at the State level increases awareness of the problem. We need a culture shift in our approach to reducing waste.

Personally reuse any bags and minimize our bag purchase. For example relatively few vegetables need to go in a bag before purchase - or if that's imporant to you bring bags. The stores are very supportive of bags being resued.

Virginia Tincher,

Aina Haina, Oahu

**SB-175**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:14:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB175