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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RECYCLING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the improper  
2 disposal of batteries and battery-embedded products creates  
3 significant safety and environmental dangers. For example, in  
4 2016, a four-alarm fire at a material recovery facility in San  
5 Mateo County, California, caused millions of dollars in damage.  
6 The fire was likely caused by a rechargeable battery.

7           In particular, lithium-ion batteries pose significant fire  
8 risks, with well-publicized incidents having occurred in homes  
9 and airliners. Despite laws regulating the disposal of  
10 lithium-ion batteries, many are improperly discarded and end up  
11 in landfills or other inappropriate parts of the solid waste  
12 system. The improper disposal of rechargeable lithium-ion  
13 batteries in the State's landfills creates unnecessary safety  
14 hazards for workers and surrounding residents, while also posing  
15 environmental threats to the State's land and water resources,  
16 including aquifers.



1           The legislature further finds that the lack of accessible  
2 recycling options causes many batteries to be improperly  
3 disposed of in landfills. The legislature also finds that  
4 requiring lithium-ion battery producers to play a more active  
5 role in the recovery and recycling of their products will help  
6 to ensure that lithium-ion batteries stay out of the State's  
7 landfills.

8           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
9 lithium-ion battery recycling working group within the  
10 department of health to assess recycling methods for small and  
11 medium format lithium-ion batteries.

12           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
13 of health the lithium-ion battery recycling working group to  
14 assess:

- 15           (1) The sources of lithium-ion batteries;
- 16           (2) The estimated quantity of lithium-ion batteries in the  
17 State;
- 18           (3) The threats that improper disposal poses to human and  
19 environmental health; and
- 20           (4) Recycling methods for small and medium format lithium-  
21 ion batteries.



- 1 (b) The working group shall consist of:
- 2 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,  
3 who shall serve as chair; and
- 4 (2) The chief energy officer, or the chief energy  
5 officer's designee.
- 6 (c) The chair of the working group shall invite the  
7 following individuals to serve as members of the working group:
- 8 (1) One representative from the lithium-ion battery  
9 manufacturing industry;
- 10 (2) One representative from the in-state lithium-ion  
11 battery recycling or collection industry;
- 12 (3) One representative from the waste shipping industry;
- 13 (4) One representative from an out-of-state lithium-ion  
14 battery recycling company;
- 15 (5) One representative from an organization that  
16 specializes in extended producer responsibility;
- 17 (6) One representative from a county fire department; and
- 18 (7) Any other members as invited by the chair.
- 19 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its  
20 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the regular session of .

3 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on .

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Lithium-ion Batteries; Recycling; DOH; Working Group

**Description:**

Establishes a lithium-ion battery recycling working group within the Department of Health to assess recycling methods for small and medium format lithium-ion batteries. Effective 7/1/3000.  
(HD1)

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