



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
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by

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HB 2509 – RELATING TO ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING

Chairs Menor and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Hooser and Espero and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 2509, which would increase the responsible recycling and disposal of electronic waste (ewaste). Regretfully however, we must oppose the current Bill unless two significant changes are made to avoid major negative impact on our ongoing educational recycling programs.

The following important changes were made in SB 2843, SD2 as passed by the Senate, and we request that they be applied to HB 2509 as well.

First, unlike the original measure, SB 2843, SD2 now includes the University of Hawai'i, Department of Education, other schools, and all levels of government as "covered entities." Second, SB 2843, SD2 now includes computers and printers as "included electronic devices." Our experience is that computers and printers are a substantial component of our ewaste problems. Without these provisions, the bill would do substantial damage to current University and DOE ewaste disposal efforts.

Our concern over the language in these bills as introduced is the direct result of our experience coordinating one of the largest ewaste disposal efforts in the State. In collaboration with Apple Computer, in October 2006 the University of Hawai'i coordinated a one-week statewide educational ewaste disposal program. At no direct cost to the University, DOE or private schools, we collected and responsibly disposed of 51 containers of unused electronic equipment from schools and colleges on four islands. Apple paid for the containers and all associated handling. Also at Apple's sole expense, the 1.2 million pounds of e-waste we collected were removed from Hawai'i for responsible recycling and disposal. This equipment included computers, monitors, printers and televisions.

We recently began discussions with Apple to plan another ewaste disposal effort for

2008. Apple's preliminary intention was to extend the program to include governmental entities as well. However, with the introduction of SB 2843 and HB 2509 as originally drafted, Apple asked to put our planning on hold. Apple's legitimate reasoning was that if the State Legislature decides to mandate disposal programs only for ewaste from consumers and small businesses, and explicitly excludes computers and printers, then Apple would quite logically redirect its recycling efforts and resources in Hawai'i into ewaste disposal programs that directly address the new statutory requirements.

We therefore request that HB 2509 be amended in a manner similar to SB 2843, SD2 in order to support the efforts of Hawai'i's education and governmental sectors to responsibly and comprehensively address our ewaste concerns as well as those of consumers and small businesses.