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# 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 fluorescent and  
2 compact fluorescent light bulbs contain small amounts of  
3 mercury. Mercury is an element that is toxic to humans and,  
4 even in small quantities, can result in internal bleeding,  
5 kidney failure, brain damage, or death. Forty-nine per cent of  
6 traditional fluorescent light bulbs contain five to ten  
7 milligrams of mercury, and ninety-six per cent of compact  
8 fluorescent light bulbs contain up to ten milligrams of mercury.  
9 Although individually these amounts seem small, the total amount  
10 of mercury contained in all of the fluorescent and compact  
11 fluorescent light bulbs in Hawaii is quite significant.  
12 Although these light bulbs are an energy-efficient preferred  
13 alternative to traditional incandescent light bulbs, the safe  
14 disposal of used fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs  
15 presents a challenge because of the mercury that they contain.  
16 Currently, disposal methods include incineration or deposit into  
17 the state's landfills. Incineration can result in the release  
18 of toxic mercury vapors into the atmosphere, where they can



1 travel for hundreds of miles and return to earth in rainfall.  
2 Landfill disposal almost always results in breakage of the  
3 bulbs, releasing the mercury content into the soil, where it  
4 leaches into the groundwater. Currently, twelve states prohibit  
5 disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in  
6 their landfills.

7 The legislature further finds that almost all components of  
8 fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs may be recycled.  
9 Lighting recycling facilities are able to capture the mercury in  
10 fluorescent bulbs and treat it so that it may be sold back into  
11 the market for use in new lighting products. In addition,  
12 lighting recycling facilities are able to separate the glass and  
13 aluminum found in fluorescent and compact fluorescent light  
14 bulbs for further recycling. Currently, there is no lighting  
15 recycling facility in Hawaii, and used fluorescent and compact  
16 fluorescent light bulbs must be shipped to the mainland for  
17 recycling. Recycling these products would remove them from  
18 Hawaii's waste stream altogether and would represent another  
19 major step toward preserving Hawaii's natural environment and  
20 protecting the health and safety of its residents.



1           The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the disposal of  
2 fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in landfills,  
3 waste-to-energy facilities, and incinerators in Hawaii.

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

7           "§342G-           Disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent  
8 light bulbs; prohibition. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the  
9 contrary, knowingly disposing of any fluorescent or compact  
10 fluorescent light bulb in any landfill or waste-to-energy  
11 facility, or by incineration, in the state is prohibited.

12           (b) The owner or operator of a landfill, waste-to-energy  
13 facility, or incinerator shall:

14           (1) Post clearly visible and easily-read signs at the  
15 facility that provide notice of the prohibition of the  
16 disposal and incineration of fluorescent and compact  
17 fluorescent light bulbs; and

18           (2) Provide written notification to the facility's  
19 customers of the prohibition on the disposal and  
20 incineration of fluorescent and compact fluorescent  
21 light bulbs, on a frequency to be established by the  
22 department by rule, or include notification as a



1           provision of the facility's contractual agreements  
2           with customers, if applicable."

3           SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
5 begun before its effective date.

6           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 21,  
8 2058.



**Report Title:**

Solid Waste; Fluorescent and CFL Bulbs; Disposal

**Description:**

Prohibits the knowing incineration or disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, and incinerators in the State. Establishes notice requirements. Effective December 21, 2058. (HB2922 HD2)

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

