



Testimony to the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Health

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Tuesday February 17, 2015 at 3:45 pm
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

LATE

RE: SENATE BILL 1049 Electronic Devices

Chairs Gabbard and Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) supports, with amendments, SB 1049. This bill prohibits an electronic device manufacturer's recycling plan from providing an electronic device owner with only a mail-back option to return a covered electronic device to the electronic manufacturer for recycling.

As the single largest generator of general excise tax in the State of Hawaii; employing nearly 25% of Hawaii's workforce and representing over 3000 storefronts throughout the State, **RMH supports SB 1049 with amendments.**

The growing volume of e-waste is a major concern globally. Rapid advances in technology and increasing buying power of consumers have resulted in high obsolescence rate of electronic products. Consumers tend to replace older electronic products with latest versions available in the market, leading to dramatic rise in e-waste worldwide. Unscientific disposal of e-waste has triggered serious environmental hazards. Recycling of e-waste enables recovery of precious metals thereby reducing the discharge of serious toxins, chemicals, and heavy metals into the environment.

We would recommend two amendments to SB 1049:

1. Replace the existing bill language and clarify that mail back-only plans submitted to the Department of Health would not be approved. The language as currently written could be misinterpreted to mean that mail back could never be a viable option for any resident anywhere in the state of Hawaii. RMH would like to suggest the following language to replace page 2, lines 3-6.

"Any plan that provides exclusively a mail-back option for the collection, transportation and recycling of the manufacturers' covered electronic devices sold in the state shall not be approved."

Retail Merchants of Hawaii
210 Ward Avenue, Suite 121
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

2. The existing recycling law places recycling requirements on one set of manufacturers whose products are the focus of voluntary, market-based collections in Hawaii for reuse and recycling – tablet manufacturers. The law is designed to get products recycled from Hawaii consumers that otherwise would not be recycled, and with the costs borne by current manufacturers. The law is designed to get products recycled from Hawaii consumers that otherwise would not be recycled, and with the costs borne by current manufacturers. However, as with smart phones and numerous other consumer products, significant demand for reuse and /or recycling's for used products exists outside of any legal mandate. This is true with tablet devices – a covered electronic device under current law.

“Manufactures of exclusively mobile covered electronic devices whose products are accepted at no charge voluntarily by at least 50 retail locations in Hawaii may fulfill these requirements by submitting a recycling plan to the Department that documents these locations.”

With these issues addressed, RMH supports SB 1049

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Retail Merchants of Hawaii
210 Ward Avenue, Suite 121
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814**