

Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch

Standard Comments

October 11, 2024

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch administers programs in the areas of:

- 1) Management of hazardous waste;
- 2) Management of solid waste; and
- 3) Regulation of underground storage tanks.

Our general comments on projects are below. For further information about these programs, please contact the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch at (808) 586-4226. All chapters of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) are at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/>.

Hazardous Waste Program

- The state regulations for hazardous waste and used oil are in chapters 11-260.1 to 11-279.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) [<https://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/hazwaste/hwrules/>]. These rules apply to the identification, handling, transportation, storage and disposal of regulated hazardous waste and used oil. Generators, transporters and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities of hazardous waste and used oil must adhere to these requirements. Violations are subject to penalties under chapter 342J, HRS.

Solid Waste Section

- The Solid Waste Section (SWS) enforces laws and regulations contained in chapters 342H and 342I, HRS, and chapter 11-58.1, HAR, “Solid Waste Management Control” [<http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/solid-waste/>].
- The purpose of the rules is to establish minimum standards governing the design, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of solid waste disposal, recycling, reclamation and transfer systems.
- All facilities that accept solid wastes are required to obtain a solid waste management permit from the SWS. Examples of the types of facilities governed by these regulations include landfills, transfer stations and convenience centers, recycling facilities, composting facilities, and salvage facilities. Medical waste, infectious waste, and foreign waste treatment facilities are also included.
- Generators of solid waste are required to ensure that their wastes are properly delivered to permitted solid waste management facilities. Managers of construction and demolition projects should require their waste contractors to submit disposal receipts and invoices to ensure proper disposal of wastes.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch Standard Comments

Office of Solid Waste Management

- The Office of Solid Waste Management (OSWM) administers statewide integrated solid waste management planning activities, which apply to the counties, as well as various recycling programs, e.g. the Glass Advance Disposal Fee (ADF) and Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Programs. Management of the DBC Program is conducted pursuant to chapter 342G, HRS, which contains compliance and enforcement provisions, and chapter 11-282, HAR, “Deposit Beverage Recycling” [<http://health.hawaii.gov/hi5/rules-regulations-additional-links/>]. OSWM is also responsible for limited enforcement and compliance of solid waste management facilities that operate primarily as certified DBC redemption centers pursuant to chapter 342H, HRS, and chapter 11-58.1, HAR, “Solid Waste Management Control” [<http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/solid-waste/>]. Authority for the integrated solid waste management planning and ADF programs is contained in chapter 342G, HRS.
- Glass Advance Disposal Fee Program: Businesses that import glass containers into Hawaii are required to register with the Department of Health and pay a 1.5 cent per container fee. Fee revenue is distributed to the counties for the operation of glass recycling programs.
- Deposit Beverage Container Program: Business that manufacture or import deposit beverage containers into Hawaii are required to register with the Department of Health and pay the five cent deposit and one cent container fee on each deposit container. Deposits and fees are deposited into a special fund and are used to reimburse DBC redemption center refunds paid to consumers; and to pay handling fees to redemption/recycling companies to process and recycle collected deposit beverage containers; and to pay program administrative costs.
- The Department of Health reimburses and pays an associated handling fee for the redemption of deposit beverage containers (DBC). These transactions are conducted only with certified redemption centers. Certification requires obtaining a solid waste management permit from the SWS (which addresses environmental issues) and a certification from the DBC program (which standardizes the redemption process).
- Chapter 342G, HRS, encourages the reduction of waste generation, reuse of discarded materials, and the recycling of solid waste. Businesses, property managers and developers, and government entities are highly encouraged to develop solid waste management plans to ensure proper handling of wastes and divert recyclables from being landfilled.
- Solid waste management plans seek to maximize waste diversion and minimize disposal. Such plans should include designated areas to promote the collection of reusable and recyclable materials.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch Standard Comments

Underground Storage Tank Program

- The state's underground storage tank (UST) regulations, found in chapter 11-280.1, HAR [<http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/underground-storage-tanks/>], include specific requirements that UST owners and operators must meet when installing, operating, and permanently closing their UST systems and addressing releases from USTs. Violations are subject to penalties under chapter 11-280.1, HAR, and chapter 342L, HRS.
- A permit is required prior to the installation and operation of a UST. Any new UST system that will be installed must have secondary containment with interstitial monitoring. Refer to subchapters 2, 3, 4, and 12 of chapter 11-280.1, HAR. The installation permit expires 1 year from the date of issuance. The operation permit expires 5 years from the date of issuance.
- §11-280.1-50, HAR, requires owners and operators of USTs or tank systems to notify DOH within twenty-four (24) hours and follow the procedures in §11-280.1-52, HAR, if any of the following occur, with specific exceptions found in the rules:
 - 1) The discovery by any person of evidence of regulated substances which may have been released at the UST site or in the surrounding area (such as the presence of free product or vapors in soils, basements, sewer and utility lines, or nearby surface water);
 - 2) Unusual UST system operating conditions observed or experienced (such as the erratic behavior of product dispensing equipment, the sudden loss of product from the UST, or an unexplained presence of water in the tank); or
 - 3) Monitoring results from a release detection method required under §§11-280.1-41 or 11-280.1-42 indicate a release may have occurred.
- For release response actions, responsible parties and their consultants and contractors should not only follow the applicable regulations, but also the Department of Health Hazard Evaluation Emergency (HEER) Office Technical Guidance Manual, HEER Environmental Action Level (EAL) guidance, and other guidance documents on the DOH HEER Office website [<https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/>], including those pertaining to Multi-Increment Sampling of soil, low flow groundwater sampling, soil vapor sampling, and Environmental Hazard Evaluations (EHE)/Environmental Hazard Management Plans (EHMP).