**Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update Task Force Minutes**

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 8:30am-12pm (HST)

2827 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782 and on Microsoft Teams

Minutes

1. **Roll Call and Introduction (PBR)**
   * Consultant team and taskforce introduced themselves.
     1. See “[Attendees](#attendees)” at bottom of document for full roster.
   * A recording of the meeting is available online at <https://youtu.be/L_76RW2St88>
2. **General Public Comment Period**
   * Time for comments to be made on the meeting agenda and for those who are not able to stay for the whole meeting
   * The public had no comments at this time
3. **Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) Update Purpose**
   * Reviewed the purpose of convening the taskforce which is to revise and update the previous ISWMP and provide comments addressing other issues of statewide concern regarding integrated solid waste management
   * Reiterated expectation of the taskforce regarding potential solid waste solutions
4. **Wrap Up Lithium-Ion Batteries Discussion** 
   * Jisela (TetraTech) recapped previous taskforce meeting on Lithium-Ion batteries. Reviewed potential solutions such as public education, extended producer responsibility (EPR), various government programs and subsidies, and free market solutions (recycling infrastructure development).
   * An attachment on lithium-ion battery safety is included in this package.
   * The public was asked to provide comments and thoughts on the previous Lithium-Ion Battery meeting. Responses have been summarized below:
     1. *DOH HEER Office* *— car batteries, home energy storage have become an issue as these batteries have to be shipped out as hazardous waste. HEER is figuring out how to do this safely and economically. Shipping companies view this as a fire hazard and have strict regulations. In order to send off island, have to de-energize batteries and this process is difficult.*
     2. *Mr. K’s Recycle and Redemption — recycling is doable for lithium ion batteries. Cost for recycling has risen to 10 cents per pound for recycling centers. Could State or County help to subsize this? Want to be part of the solution and have been looking into potential solutions.*
   * Taskforce was asked to present their thoughts and opinions on the previous Lithium-Ion Battery meeting. Their responses have been summarized below:
     1. *Nicole Chatterson — Importance of thinking about upstream process of creating and using batteries due to great impact of batteries downstream.*
5. **Introduction – Statewide Recycling Programs Problem Statement (TetraTech)**
   * Jisela introduced the statewide recycling program problem statements and highlighted the deposit beverage container (DBC) program (HI-5 Program), electronic device recycling program, glass advance disposal fee program.
     1. The process of the HI-5 program was discussed, examples of what can be recycled was shown, and metrics on recycling were highlighted.
     2. A lack of infrastructure was noted as a challenge for electronic device recycling.
     3. Lack of baseline recovery rate or target recovery goals were identified as major problem.
   * The public was asked to provide comments and thoughts on the previous problem statements. Responses have been summarized below:
     1. There were no public comments at this time.
   * Taskforce feedback was requested on the statewide recycling programs problem statement. Responses and discussion have been summarized below:
     1. *Nicole Chatterson — Transparency is needed, especially around broker relationships.*
     2. *Kristine Kubat — would like to add consumer products to the problem statement “such as” section.*
6. **Potential Solutions**
   * Jisela gave an overview of federal government and state actions and legislations on the three problem statement areas: DBC, electronic device, and glass advance disposal fee programs
7. **Speaker Presentations — Terry Telfer and Walter Alcorn**
   * Terry Telfer, President of Reynolds Recycling presented on topics to help the HI-5 program. His presentation covered key areas such as:
     1. re-energizing the HI-5 program
     2. improving consumer trust
     3. increasing customer convenience
     4. assisting recyclers to keep up with inflation
     5. support grant programs
   * Walter Alcorn, Vice President of the Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability, Consumer Technology Association discussed general background information, recycling challenges, and data trends around consumption and waste.
   * A question-and-answer portion followed the presentation. Discussions have been edited for clarity:
     1. *Kristine Kubat — Need to get away from single use plastics and containers and work to ban single use containers. HI-5 program is not a recycling program, it’s a collection and redemption program. Increased distrust in recycling has led to decreased enthusiasm for recycling. Look to decrease consumption of single use plastic.*
        1. *Regarding E-waste, Kristine would like to discuss the durability of products. Products’ lifetimes should not be so short and lead to increased consumerism. Right to repair legislation could help to alleviate the issue and be a solution.*
     2. *Mr. K’s Recycle and Redemption — why would printers not be recycled as they are heavy and can take a lot out of landfills? “Peripheral” electronics are not actually recycled but should be in recycling programs. Recent products are not durable and are seen more frequently in landfills.*
        1. *Right to repair would be great to hold companies accountable. There are many products that should be included in recycling programs.*
        2. *Education on recycling, recyclers programs, and more are needed to help solve these issues and increase funding for recycling.*
     3. *Nicole Chatterson —* 
        1. *HI-5 Comments: People don’t believe that their products are actually being recycled, contributing to public distrust. Is there a way to reduce multiple materials used in containers? This would help to reduce work for recyclers and make the process smoother. Could a resource sharing program for recycling bins be created?*
        2. *Glass Comments: glass is highly recyclable but due to legislation, Hawaii companies are forced to send glass products away to be recycled.*
        3. *E-Waste: are refurbishment figures included in statistics? Also noted the volume of e-waste given away for marketing. At conferences, for example, could we allow people to opt out of swag to reduce single use products.* 
           1. *Walter Alcorn — refurbished electronics do not count towards the 50-60% target numbers.*
     4. *Nik (Recycler on Oʻahu) — downward trend in recycling. Time to develop network and expand recycling programs is key to growing recycling and recycler businesses in Hawaii.*
     5. *Ahmad Sadri — H-Power does not accept e-waste and is working to create programs to separately drop off e-waste. Working to create a bulky item collection. H-Power’s job is to save space in the landfill and divert as much as possible away to create energy.*
     6. *Bryan Catello (Processor that gets material from Hawaii) — Weight is there if peripheral materials are added to materials that can be recycled.*
     7. *Kristine Kubat — EPA has issued a directive calling for the end of PET production. Certain terminology, “recycling” is not being used correctly and urges team to make sure topics are properly labelled and messaging is more accurate. Would like to continue talking about electronics and hear more from Mr. K.*
     8. *Mr. K’s Recycle and Redemption — solar panels are going to become a big issue.*
        1. *Solar Panels are the subject for an upcoming Task Force meeting..*
8. **Comparative Analysis**
   * Jisela (TetraTech) presented a comparative analysis to compare what other States are doing for their statewide recycling programs. The analysis covered extended producer responsibility (EPR), government programs and subsidies, free market solutions, education and outreach opportunities, and resource reduction alternatives.
9. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Potential Solutions**
   * The public was asked to share their thoughts on potential solutions presented. Comments are summarized below:
   * *Michelle from Mr. K’s Recycle and Redemption — HI-5 Program does not recycle caps even though they are recyclable. What are the impacts of caps going into the landfill?*
     1. *Increased education around issue of contamination and how to recycle without contamination. This is a behavioral change that needs to occur and could be aided with increased education to the public on recycling without contamination.*
10. **Discussion on Potential Solutions (Task Force)**
    * Taskforce members were asked to share their thoughts on what could be improved in the statewide recycling programs.
    * Responses and answers have been summarized below:
      1. *Kristine Kubat — Senate Bill on EPR could be revived and folded into this process. It is focused on reuse and setting up reuse infrastructure.*
         1. *Expand e-waste program to include cords and batteries and the overlap with lithium-ion batteries.*
         2. *Increase non-deposit fee to 5 cents.*
         3. *Need more information on impacts of increase of non-deposit fee from 1.5 cents to 5 cents.*
         4. *Need to use terminology correctly in order to have more informed conversations. For example, “recyclable” should not mean shipped away or downcycled.*
      2. *Nicole Chatterson — Would like this planning process to focus conversations first on source reduction.*
      3. *Keola Aki (Kauaʻi County) — Support improvements needed to expand programs and increasing deposit beverage fee to 10 cents. A review of the ADF program and what is required for the buyback program would require of the counties.*
      4. *Andy Boyd (Kauaʻi County) — EPR doesn’t take away costs from the public, companies will pass the cost on to the consumer.* 
         1. *Bottle caps add weight and can give an inaccurate payback which may be the main reason why they are not wanted for recycling. Bottle caps themselves cannot be sent out for recycling.*
         2. *Agree with increasing fee to 10 cents and increasing the amount of items that are included like wine and spirit bottles and milk jugs.*
    * No further discussion occurred on Potential Solutions so time was given to comment on other topics.
      1. *Kristine Kubat — Gave progress report on efforts to cooperate with Dr. Cooney and the organization Call to Recycle. Also has connected with Greg Jenkins at Matson to discuss potential to deactivate batteries on island before transport.*
      2. *Terry Telfer — End users will only accept 2% bottle caps and allowing people to leave caps on leads to people recycling bottles with liquids inside.*
      3. *Nicole Chatterson — Public education not thoughtfully curated can show people a set of solutions that isn’t necessarily working. The issue of educating the public can be complex to make sure we’re not depicting non-helpful practices. As an example, creating art with non-recyclable materials creates a cognitive dissonance for children. Corporate education should be discussed as well as these companies have a big impact on pricing, materials, and more. Partnerships with non-profits need to be more thought out so the burden of education doesn’t fall solely on the non-profit.*
11. **Meeting Summary**
    * Jisela (TetraTech) outlined important points discussed by the public and taskforce throughout the meeting.
    * Participants were given the change to bring up any thoughts or questions. Comments are summarized below:
      1. *Kristine Kubat — Has heard that DOH has taken the position that shipping lithium-ion batteries off island is a proper way to deal with them. This is in contradiction to other sources dealing with lithium-ion batteries. Would like clarification from DOH on this matter.*
      2. *Lane Otsu (DOH) — Is not aware of this policy and would like a reference or more material on this.*
      3. *Nicole Chatterson — Would like to confirm that source reduction reframing was noted. Also, offered to review fact sheets and provide feedback on the in the information gathering/preparations for the Task Force meetings.*
12. **Next Steps (PBR)**
    * TetraTech will compile information received during the meeting.
    * Next meeting is on Organics tentatively scheduled for December 7th.
    * Lane Otsu will be temporarily taking over as Solid Waste Coordinator as Michael Burke has transitioned to another position.

Attendees

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Association** | **Present?** |
| Ahmad Sadri | City and County of Honolulu, Dept. of Environmental Services — Task Force | **X** |
| Keola Aki for Allison Fraley | County of Kauaʻi, Dept. of Public Works — Task Force | **X** |
| Dominic Henriques | RRR Recycling Services — Task Force | No |
| Glenn Haae | Dept. of Health, Solid Waste Section — Task Force | **X** |
| Joe Hernandez | PVT Land Co | No |
| Kristine Kubat | Recycle Hawaiʻi | X |
| Nicole Chatterson | Zero Waste Oʻahu — Task Force | **X** |
| Ramzi Mansour | County of Hawaiʻi, Department of Environmental Management — Task Force | X |
| Robert Schmidt | County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management — Task Force | **X** |
| Wayne Tanaka | Sierra Club — Task Force | No |
| Walter Alcorn | Consumer Technology Association — Guest Speaker | **X** |
| Terry Telfer | Reynolds Recycling — Guest Speaker | **X** |
| Andrew Boyd | Public | **X** |
| Akiko | Public | **X** |
| Amanda Tischer-Buros | Public | **X** |
| Andy Boyd | Kaua‘i County | **X** |
| Bruce Iverson | Reynolds Recycling | **X** |
| Bryan Catello | Public | **X** |
| Catherine Brand | Public | **X** |
| Chris Chin-Chance | Hawai‘i County | **X** |
| Craig Kawaguchi | Public | **X** |
| David Hirschler | Public | **X** |
| Diana Mathis | Public | **X** |
| Janice | Public | **X** |
| Kaliko Chun | Public | **X** |
| Kelly Hartman | Public | **X** |
| Luke Miller | Public | **X** |
| Mike Kido | Public | **X** |
| Mr. K’s Recycle and Redemption | Recycling Industry | **X** |
| Nick Shuman | Public | **X** |
| Nik | Public | **X** |
| Sally Jefferson | Public | **X** |
| Tomi Wessel | Public | **X** |
| Tricia Conroy | Public | **X** |
| Wendi Zheng | Public | **X** |
| Stephanie Woo | Public | **X** |
| Lane Otsu | Dept. of Health | **X** |
| Michael Burke | Dept. of Health | **X** |
| Marienna Jimenez | Dept. of Health | **X** |
| Wendy Okazaki | Dept. of Health — OSWM | **X** |
| Susan Panui | Dept. of Health — OSWM |  |
| Kimberly Tamao | Dept. of Health — OSWM |  |
| Cesar Leon | TetraTech | **X** |
| Christine Arbogast | TetraTech | **X** |
| Jisela Herrera | TetraTech | **X** |
| Catie Cullison | PBR Hawaii | **X** |
| Ramsay Taum | PBR Hawaii | **X** |
| Sunny Rosario | PBR Hawaii | **X** |