

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

This Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan updates the Solid Waste Management Plan for the County of Hawaii, which was prepared in August of 1981 at the County level prior to the passage of State Act 324 "The Solid Waste Management Act". Therefore, this Plan has been prepared to meet the needs of the County of Hawaii in making planning decisions dealing with solid waste management issues and the requirements of Act 324 dealing with solid waste management planning.

1.2 OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF PLAN

1.2.1 Objectives

The objective of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan is to provide a foundation for decision making which will guide solid waste management on the Island of Hawaii. The Plan is not intended to provide specific details on the day to day operation of solid waste management programs, but rather to provide assistance to the County Administration and Council in making decisions as to the types of programs to implement, when these programs should be implemented and how these programs should be administered and funded.

1.2.2 Goals

The goals of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan are:

- To reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by twenty-five percent by January 1, 1995; and by fifty percent by January 1, 2000; through source reduction, recycling and bioconversion.

- To operate the solid waste management system in a manner which will safeguard the environment of the Island of Hawaii.
- To work cooperatively with the private sector and with non-profit groups in providing solutions to the solid waste management problems facing the Island of Hawaii.
- To work cooperatively with the other Counties in the State in establishing solid waste management programs at the State level.

1.3 CURRENT SITUATION

The current County of Hawaii solid waste management system consists of a series of 21 solid waste transfer stations and 2 sanitary landfills. The transfer stations are small facilities which are primarily used to collect solid waste from waste generators. Wastes collected at these transfer stations are transported to landfills at Kailua-Kona and at Hilo for disposal. The County is involved with recycling to a limited extent. County involvement in recycling consists of operating a recycling yard at Kailua-Kona and funding a private recycling operation in Hilo.

There are no County operated or franchised waste collection programs on the Island. However, several private haulers provide collection services to businesses and to residents. The majority of the haulers are small operations consisting of one or two trucks. Several of the haulers provide limited recycling services.

Both of the landfills are noncompliant with the new Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle "D" regulations. If either of these facilities are to remain in operation past October of 1993, substantial expenditures will be required in order to meet the new regulations. The Kailua-Kona landfill is very near to its permitted capacity and will have to be closed in the near future. A new landfill, which will be constructed near Puuanahulu, is being planned to replace the Kailua-Kona facility. The landfill at Hilo has adequate capacity but faces closure due to the extremely high costs associated with operating the site under Subtitle "D" regulations. A potential site for a new landfill exists adjacent to the existing Hilo landfill. This site is under

general lease S-4829 which allows landfill construction. However, at this time it is not known if this site is usable for landfill construction as a hydrogeologic study and siting analysis have not been performed.

The County faces a potential waste management crisis with implementation of the new federal regulations. In order to be able to make planning decisions as to whether to build a new landfill or a regional transfer station at Hilo, a hydrogeologic study and siting analysis will have to be initiated.

1.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Island's solid waste management has evolved from a series of open dumps situated along the coastline. These dumps were located close enough to populated areas to be convenient but not so close as to be a nuisance. Open burning was encouraged as a means of volume reduction and vermin and odor control. Most of these dumps had a scavenger who collected scrap metal and provided some means of site control.

With the advent of State air pollution regulations, open burning was discontinued and the sites rapidly became unmanageable and were eventually closed. As the open dumps were abandoned a transfer station was typically constructed at or near the site to provide a replacement means of waste disposal to area residents. This program has resulted in a series of transfer stations which serve most residents of the Island. This convenient system of transfer stations has served to prevent the formation of an extensive waste collection program on the Island as most residents have a waste disposal site nearby.

By 1980 there were only four County operated dumping sites remaining on the Island. Two of these sites located in Hilo and Kailua-Kona had been upgraded to sanitary landfill status. All of the open dumps, except two located in Waimea and in Kaauhuhu, had been closed and 18 transfer stations had been constructed.

The Waimea and Kaauhuhu dumps have been closed since 1980 and three additional transfer stations have been added to the system.

Recycling on the Island has historically been limited to small operations dealing with high value materials (such as nonferrous metals) and fund raising operations. Recently, recycling has gained momentum and has become popular among Island residents with many non-profit groups actively engaged in recycling programs.

1.5 RELATED PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been reviewed and referred to while preparing the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. These documents provide a background on solid waste planning on the Island of Hawaii.

- **Feasibility Study of Resource Recovery From Solid Waste, County of Hawaii; 1977**
- **Solid Waste Management Plan, County of Hawaii, State of Hawaii; 1981**
- **Municipal Solid Waste Generation and Transportation Cost Study for County of Hawaii; 1984**
- **Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for the State of Hawaii; 1991**
- **Environmental Impact Statement for the West Hawaii Sanitary Landfill, Puuanahulu, North Kona, Hawaii; 1991**