

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

SUBMITTED TO
THE TWENTY-NINTH STATE LEGISLATURE
IN RESPONSE TO ACT 217, SLH 2017

BACKGROUND

Act 217, SLH 2017, appropriated \$200,000 in general funds to enable the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to establish a recycling pilot program. The program should reasonably provide and maintain onsite methods at buildings and facilities managed, maintained, or serviced by the DAGS for the collection of recyclable materials, including paper, plastics, and deposit beverage containers.

DAGS has a recycling program (for white and colored paper, newsprint and corrugated cardboard) in place for 13 facilities on Oahu at a current cost of about \$96,000 annually. This program has been in place for more than 10 years and requires DAGS staff to collect the recyclable material throughout the facilities and deliver it to contractor provided bins. The contractor provided bins are located at a central location and a contractor collects the materials for proper processing.

Act 217, SLH 2017 did not provide any additional staff to the DAGS for this effort, and due to the last Reduction in Force, the DAGS does not have any available staff to assign the responsibilities of this effort.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Recycling contractors provide a number of options for the DAGS to establish a recycling program for beverage containers. The first 2 options require (1) the containers to be separated by glass, plastic, and aluminum, (2) the containers to be separated by HI5 and non-HI5, and (3) the containers shall be liquid-free and all caps removed.

1. The DAGS would provide collection receptacles throughout the facilities and a contractor would provide bins and collect beverage containers from a central location at each facility. The contractor would require the previously discussed processing of the containers.

This would require the contractor to purchase additional vehicles for the collection because using their current vehicles, that they use to collect paper, would contaminate the paper, making it un-recyclable.

The DAGS does not have staff available to collect and process the containers as required by the contractors.

2. The DAGS would provide collection receptacles throughout the facilities and the DAGS staff would collect the beverage containers and deliver them to a recycling contractor. The contractor would require the previously discussed processing of the containers.

The DAGS does not have staff available to collect and process the containers as required by the contractors.

3. A contractor would provide collection receptacles throughout the facilities and collect the beverage containers from those receptacles.

The contractors are not currently staffed to provide this type of service. It is also a concern for the DAGS that contractors will not be willing to make the required adjustments for this size of a pilot effort.

The contractors will not be able to collect any funds from the HI5 program because they are only able to collect funds from the HI5 program when they pay out the \$0.05 refund. Therefore they are unable to reduce their charges to the DAGS.

The DAGS performed a study to determine the quantity of recyclable beverage containers currently in the waste stream. Janitors at 4 facilities were tasked to count the number of containers they see in the waste stream as they perform their trash collection duties. This was performed over a 2 week period and the results are as follows:

- Queen Liliuokalani Building (DOE/DHS with a low volume of non-State staff within the building)

No containers were reported in the waste stream, indicating staff is recycling all containers.

- State Capitol Building

6 to 8 containers, daily, were reported in the waste stream. The 6 to 8 containers were only in the exterior trash bins and there are people who will collect containers from the exterior trash bins on a regular basis.

- Kakuhihewa Building (Kapolei State Office Building) (DHS/DOE/DOT with a high volume of non-State staff visiting the building)

A daily average of 40 containers (high of 57 low of 29) were reported in the waste stream.

- Kalanimoku Building (DAGS, DLNR, DOT with a moderate volume of non-State staff visiting the building)

No containers were reported in the waste stream, indicating staff is recycling all containers.

CONCLUSION

Contractor costs, for all options, are expected to be higher than the DAGS' current cost to recycle paper and cardboard due to staffing, equipment and effort requirements.

After considering the costs and the benefits for this effort, the DAGS intends to use the available funds, as released by the Governor, to purchase beverage collection receptacles within the facilities it is responsible.