

PETITION FOR RECYCLING IN HAWAII ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mission: We, the students of Hawaii Island, propose that all schools of Hawaii should have equal access to a sustainable recycling program for our school campuses. We strongly request that all future Department of Education solid waste contracts require recycling services.

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Background

For the past three years, students at Kealakehe High School have worked to establish an effective recycling program for their school. The program started with a few dedicated students and some recycling bins scattered around campus. Now, Kealakehe has two permanent recycling stations on campus and bins in each building. The entire school gets involved in the effort with bins in their classrooms and a weekly recycling drop off. However, having the bins on campus is a breach of the DOE waste contracts, which are solely with Pacific Waste. The current contracts make no provisions for recycling and make it impossible to hire other companies to provide recycling services. Every public school on the island is under these contracts and is unable to recycle. The amount of recyclable material that goes straight to the landfill each year, from schools alone, is disturbing. The Environmental Leadership Club believes that the establishment of a formal program will provide effective implementation of recycling for all schools of Hawai'i Island.