



## COUNTY OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL) Recycling and Disposal Information



#### Mercury in CFLs

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams (roughly equivalent to the size of the tip of a ball point pen). Mercury poses health risks and CFLs should not be disposed of in your regular trash.



#### Recycling Options

The County of Hawai'i has several options for recycling CFL lightbulbs:





-  Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events – Hilo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December, Kona on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December. Also, Waimea & Pāhoa annually in March.
-  Home Depot provides **free** CFL recycling drop-off by the Customer Service Area.

Should a CFL lightbulb break, follow clean up guidelines provide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – available online at <http://www.epa.gov/hg/spills/#fluorescent>.

Consumers should encourage retailers who sell CFL lightbulbs to offer recycling programs. For more information about this and other County of Hawai'i Solid Waste and Recycling programs visit [www.hawaiiizerowaste.org](http://www.hawaiiizerowaste.org).

#### Benefits of Energy Efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights

Switching from traditional light bulbs or fluorescents to LEDs is a cost effective way to reduce energy usage and save money (estimated in Hawai'i County to be \$135 per year with regular usage<sup>1</sup>). They may cost slightly more up-front but will save you tons over their longer lifetime. The U.S. EPA recommends the use of LEDs, when compared to incandescent bulbs, for the following reasons:

-  LEDs produce the same amount of light using up to 90% percent less energy
-  LEDs last up to 20 years
-  LEDs produce less heat, are cool to the touch and saves on air conditioning costs.
-  LED's reduced energy usage reduces air pollution for a cleaner environment



***Mahalo for Recycling and doing your part to help protect the 'āina!***

<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Energy – Lighting Facts  
US EPA Learn About LED Lights info  
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