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MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact Persons: Chris Chin-Chance or Linda Peters, County Recycling Section 961-8554 or 961-8942

County resumes E-Waste Recycling Program

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management Solid Waste Division will resume its E-Waste Recycling Program beginning Friday, March 5, to collect and recycle electronic waste in a safe and environmentally responsible method.

Residents may take their e-waste to the Bay Side Computer Shop in Hilo or the Compucycle Kona drop-off site for proper disposal.

The program was temporarily suspended recently after a contract with a vendor to send the materials to the mainland expired and recycled e-waste was piling up in storerooms on the island.

The County advises all residents, businesses, government agencies and non-profits to manage their electronic waste responsibly by using a reputable e-waste recycling company. Disposing e-waste illegally can cause health and safety hazards. Also, abandonment of e-waste at a collection site during non-operating hours is considered illegal dumping.

The County-sponsored E-Waste Recycling Program will end on April 30, 2010, and the Department of Environmental Management intends on implementing an annual E-Waste Recycling Collection Event in East and West Hawai'i with specific dates to be announced.

On January 1, 2010, the state Department of Health implemented the new Hawai'i Electronic Device Recycling Program (HEDRP). The program requires that manufacturers of Covered Electronic Devices (CEDs) establish take-back recycling programs for registered CEDs, including computers and portable computers, printers, monitors and televisions.

Retailers of CEDs will be required to make information available to consumers about recycling services offered by CED manufacturers. Non-compliant electronic devices will be prohibited from sales in Hawai'i.

Consumers will have options to recycle their CEDs either through drop-off collection sites or through mail-back plans depending on the manufacturer. Mail-back plans may involve a small fee for the service. Computers and portable computers, printers and computer monitors have been eligible for

take-back recycling since January 1, 2010. Televisions will be eligible for take-back recycling beginning January 1, 2011, or earlier, depending on the manufacturers.

For more information on the State of Hawai'i Electronic Device Recycling Program please contact:

State of Hawai'i Department of Health
Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 212
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814

Phone: 974-4000 extension 64226# (toll free from the Big Island)

Website: <http://hawaii.gov/ewaste>

The County's E-Waste Recycling Program and additional solid waste management information is available on the Department's website at www.HawaiiZeroWaste.org. For further information, please contact the County Recycling Section, Chris Chin-Chance at 961-8554, recycle3@co.hawaii.hi.us, or Ms. Linda Peters at 961-8942, lpeters@co.hawaii.hi.us.

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