



## COUNTY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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

#### Benefits of Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)



Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is a cost effective way to reduce energy usage and save money (estimated in Hawai'i County to be \$140 per CFL over its lifetime). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends the use of CFLs, when compared to incandescent bulbs, for the following reasons:



- CFLs produce the same amount of light using 75 percent less energy
- CFLs last 10 times longer
- CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs and are cool to the touch
- CFLs reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment



#### 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 tip of a ball point pen). Using CFLs actually prevents mercury from entering our air. A typical power plant will emit 10 mg of mercury into the air to produce the electricity needed to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same amount of time. Mercury poses potential 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June and December, Kona on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June and December. Also, Waimea & Pāhoa annually in March.
- Home Depot provides free CFL recycling drop-off

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

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).

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