

ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-Waste)

(Computers, Printers, Monitors and Televisions)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Electronic and electronic products contain hazardous or toxic materials which can pollute the environment and threaten human health. Computers, laptops, monitors and peripherals equipment (i.e., cables, printers, scanners, keyboards and speakers) are recyclable and should not be discarded in the trash.

Your Government owned office electronics must be turned in to your Supply Support Activity (SSA) for processing by DOL and recycled thru DRMO or the local school donation program.

For your personal computer, take advantage of the many manufacturers and retailers who offer free electronics recycling. Hawaii Electronic Waste and Television Recycling and Recovery Law requires electronics manufacturers to provide recycling programs for computers, computer monitors and televisions. The State Department of Health is responsible for implementing this law.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

When computers become obsolete they leave behind lead, cadmium, mercury and hazardous flame-retardants toxic chemicals. These hazardous materials can contaminate the environment when they are disposed of improperly. However, if they are recycled (referred to as “recycling”) any hazardous materials they contain are removed and reprocessed or reused in an environmentally-responsible manner.

Computers and related electronic equipment also contain substances such as glass, plastics and certain chemical compounds that are highly recoverable, recyclable, and reusable.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

- Remember, “e-waste” cannot be recycled in your blue bin or with your office or household recyclables.
- When purchasing new electronic products make sure they are energy efficient and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified.
- For Government owned obsolete e-waste, take to your supporting unit SSA or contact DOL Property Book Office to determine requirements for turn-in.
- For personal e-waste contact the manufacturer or a local retailer for recycling instructions or consult the list of free drop off locations available at: <http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/waste/sw/hedrp/hedrp.html> or http://www.opala.org/solid_waste/eWaste.html
- For cell phones, see individual fact sheet.

