



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CURBSIDE RECYCLING – FINALLY!

Honolulu Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) reacted to the start of island-wide curbside recycling for Oahu.

“Finally! After years of pushing, I am happy to see the City starting the implementation of an island-wide curbside recycling program and I am excited to see the first phase start today in East Honolulu, in my district. This has taken far too long, and I find it curious that the mayor opted to start this important program the day before the election, but it is better late than never,” stated Councilmember Djou. “It is my hope that after refusing to do curbside recycling for so many years, the administration will stay committed to doing this much-needed program.”

In 2005, Mayor Mufi Hannemann cancelled the City’s planned curbside recycling program. Councilmember Djou reacted to the mayor’s decision by introducing a bill mandating the administration start a curbside recycling program by July 1, 2008. The administration refused and claimed a lack of funds. Djou repeatedly proposed and pushed for amendments to the City budget to fully fund curbside recycling. In 2007, Councilmember Djou successfully amended an administration bill authorizing yet another curbside recycling pilot project, to mandate curbside recycling start island-wide at the end of the pilot projects in Hawaii Kai and Mililani.

In the last election, after opposition by the mayor, the voters of Oahu ordered the administration to do curbside recycling. After years of delay and fighting by Hannemann, the mayor is now taking credit for the City getting on the path to begin an island-wide curbside recycling.

Honolulu remains the largest city in the United States without a curbside recycling program. Oahu’s long, sorry saga, and the mayor’s continued opposition to curbside recycling, is chronicled by the Hawaii Sierra Club at: <http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/curbside.htm>.

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