



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 22, 2003

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to offer warm greetings to everyone gathered in celebration of a milestone of environmental stewardship in the Hawaiian islands – the processing of 8 million tons of municipal solid waste in Covanta Energy's "Hpower" waste-to-energy facility.

This project is an excellent example of how waste-to-energy, when combined with source separation and recycling, transforms materials that have been traditionally discarded into a valuable commodity. The need to mine for virgin materials has been reduced, solid waste is being diverted from Oahu's landfills, and the island's residents and businesses are benefitting from the electricity generated by this innovative process.

Since "Hpower" has been in operation, it has saved approximately 10 million cubic yards of landfill space, while producing energy equivalent to that generated by 10 million barrels of oil. This important project could not be more timely, as the United States accelerates its efforts to decrease our dependence on foreign energy sources and improve environmental management, resource recovery, and conservation.

I join with everyone in attendance at today's ceremony in congratulating Oahu and Covanta Energy for their pioneering partnership and their efforts to preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Todd Whitman".

Christine Todd Whitman