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EN202-01

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Would mandatory recycling work for Saipan?

For an island that works to mirror its infrastructure to the mainland, it’s surprising to come to learn that we haven’t introduced any form of mandatory recycling, or even forms of preparation to implement the system. Mandatory recycling is nearly second nature in regards to waste disposal in multiple developed countries, but here in saipan (and by extension, the rest of the CNMI), the government isn’t even in charge of garbage pickup, it’s all dependent on private contractors like Artman or Ericco. That can be confusing because of all the beautification projects that the community encourage. Before moving outside the home, proper waste disposal and recycling should start at home. An island that holds as much parties as Saipan does, should have mandatory recycling as a way to hold citizens accountable for their waste as well as leaving good practices for future generations.

I will be looking at multiple facets of information available here on island. From statistics that DEQ releases, as well as information on the recycling centers at the Lower Base Transfer Station. There is also statistics on the impact of mandatory recycling in Japan and several states in the U.S. Japan would be a good place to look for mandatory recycling because its system that it set in place has gone from being law to properly being assimilated into their lifestyle. The same can be said for the United States where it is properly enforced and supported by the government. Unfortunately, researching this topic leave less results in terms of scholarly literature because of our location as well as the idea of mandatory recycling not really being a thing here on Saipan but the resources available at DEQ or the recycling centers can be a great help.

As well as asking for resources and statistics at the facilities here on island, I would like to hear the opinion of those working for both private and government facilities. Within 4 weeks I will be planning a visit to several of the recycling centers, DEQ, and the mayor’s office. With their authority on Saipan’s waste management, it would be worthwhile to learn whether they would support mandatory recycling or even just an idea for the reformation of our waste management and recycling practices as well as if a form of mandatory recycling was ever considered. The rest of information and support would come from surveys I’d conduct within the school and class. Getting the opinion of students on mandatory recycling would be interesting because there hasn’t been much exposure to the system here on island unless you had gone off island to a place that does have it . They would also realistically be the generation to raise those who would be affected on the possible implementation of mandatory recycling.

Scheduling the resource gathering wouldn't be too difficult as it will be following the format and schedule that the class will follow. Since surveys will be one of the first things finished, I will be using the information gained to form some questions I will use for the interviews with waste management authorities. The interviews will be the bigger half of my research and will take up a bulk of the paper, so hopefully by the time I have all that done. The writing will just be a case of organizing opinion and results. I should be able to finish or at least be far along the paper within 9 weeks. Using every 2 weeks to get input on both my writing and my information. There would also be a final review of my paper in week 10 for polish.

 So within the 10 weeks, I will have gotten enough information to formulate whether or not mandatory recycling would be appropriate for Saipan. The comparison between Saipan to bigger countries will also provide proper statistics to whether it has a positive, negative or neutral impact on the overall community. The surveys and interviews I will conduct will provide information on a local scale, both in terms of government budget and resources, as well as public opinion. This paper can hopefully shed some light on why we’ve been withholding on a system like this for as long as we have.