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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 1544

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT HAZARDOUS ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE) IS BEING DUMPED AT PIER 18 IN MANILA, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF E-WASTE TO PROMOTE CHEMICAL SAFETY, PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Whereas*, the Philippine Constitution explicitly mandates the right to a healthy environment as provided in Sec. 16, Art. II, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

*Whereas*, Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act classifies hazardous household trash like consumer electronics which include cell phones and computers; appliances like stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners and television sets; and bulbs and batteries as "special waste" that should be handled separately from other residential and commercial garbage;

*Whereas*, an environmental group has aired concerns over "reclaimers" or scavengers foraging through the dumpsite at Pier 18 in Manila in search of materials like linear and compact fluorescent lamps, computer circuit boards, and other electrical and electronic items they could sell, despite the chemical risks and hazards these pose;

*Whereas*, the group said that discarded and electronic devices contain hazardous chemicals like beryllium, cadmium, lead, mercury, brominated flame retardants and polychlorinated biphenyls that should not be combined with regular waste;

*Whereas*, the local government of Manila has denied the reports, saying that the disposal of a large amount of electronic and computer parts was prohibited in the city, although it admitted that there were instances of these types of waste materials ending up at the site;

*Whereas*, the toxic and hazardous chemicals in electronic waste can endanger the health of informal recyclers and the people around them, as well as contaminate the environment with toxic pollutants;

*Whereas*, children and pregnant and breastfeeding women exposed to the chemicals in e-waste, especially cadmium, lead and mercury (even at low levels) are most vulnerable to its toxic effects; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reports that hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) is being dumped at Pier 18 in Manila, with the end in view of crafting guidelines and policies for the safe disposal of e-waste to promote chemical safety, protect the environment and safeguard public health.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator