Empty HI 5¢ plastic bottles are redeemed at a reverse vending machine or redemption center.

Local recycling companies semi-crush and shred the plastic.

The shredded plastic is shipped to the mainland.

Mainland companies further grind and shred the plastic.

Shredded plastic is shipped to Hong Kong or other parts of China.

Plastic is liquefied.

Processed plastic is turned into a variety of things including material for clothes, plastic lumber, and toys.

LIFE CYCLE OF A PLASTIC BOTTLE IN HAWAI‘I

Source: Island Recycling and Reynolds Recycling
Artwork: Ed Tamura