
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A DEMOLITION
WASTE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's landfills are nearing capacity, with the
2 State facing significant community opposition to the expansion
3 of existing facilities or the establishment of new facilities;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental
7 Protection Agency, construction and demolition waste constitutes
8 approximately twenty-one to forty percent of landfill mass
9 nationwide and represents one of the largest contributors to
10 solid waste in Hawaii, further exacerbating landfill pressures;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, a comprehensive and coordinated cross-industry
14 approach is critical to advancing the circular construction
15 economy, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable practices
16 across Hawaii's construction and demolition sectors; and
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18 WHEREAS, local recycling nonprofits and community-based
19 organizations in Hawaii have made significant progress in
20 advocating for deconstruction, reuse, and circular economy
21 principles but face barriers in scaling these efforts to have
22 broader policy and economic impact; and
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24 WHEREAS, a construction and demolition waste reduction
25 working group could serve as a catalyst to coordinate efforts
26 across industries, identify resources, remove systemic barriers,
27 and recommend targeted incentives that promote sustainable
28 practices and economic growth; and
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30 WHEREAS, the adoption of reclaimed and reused materials,
31 which are often low-embodied carbon alternatives to virgin
32 materials, could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions
33 and support Hawaii's carbon reduction goals, as outlined in Act



1 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which commits the State to
2 carbon neutrality by 2045; and

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4 WHEREAS, landfills have historically been located near
5 disadvantaged communities, disproportionately exposing these
6 communities to health risks such as air pollution, groundwater
7 contamination, and other environmental hazards, and addressing
8 these injustices should be a central goal of sustainable waste
9 management policies; and

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11 WHEREAS, the establishment of a working group will help
12 make actionable recommendations, including reviewing potential
13 approaches, proposing solutions, and prioritizing actions to
14 promote deconstruction, materials reuse, and waste reduction;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, given its mandate to
18 protect public health and the environment, would be well-suited
19 to lead the working group to ensure representation from all
20 relevant stakeholders and alignment with Hawaii's sustainability
21 and equity goals; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2025, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
26 Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
29 to:

- 30
31 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce
32 construction and demolition waste statewide;
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34 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and
35 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;
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37 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction
38 economy by fostering public and private sector
39 collaboration;
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41 (4) Ensure alignment with Hawaii's carbon neutrality and
42 environmental justice goals; and



- 1
2 (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives
3 that promote sustainable practices; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
6 to include the following members:
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- 8 (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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10 (2) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
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12 (3) One representative from the Department of Education;
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14 (4) One representative from the Department of
15 Transportation;
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17 (5) One representative from the University of Hawaii
18 System; and
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20 (6) Private sector leaders invited to participate as
21 members of the working group, including:
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23 (A) One representative from the construction
24 industry;
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26 (B) One representative from the demolition and
27 deconstruction industry;
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29 (C) One representative from the reuse retail
30 industry;
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32 (D) One representative from the real estate
33 development industry;
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35 (E) One representative with expertise in historic
36 preservation;
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38 (F) One representative with expertise in
39 architecture;
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41 (G) One representative with expertise in urban
42 planning; and



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2 (H) One representative from the waste management
3 industry; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
6 to invite and involve community groups with expertise in
7 workforce development, public policy, and environmental justice;
8 and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
11 to focus on policy innovation and cross-industry collaboration,
12 exploring best practices from successful circular economy
13 programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark,
14 the Netherlands, and other global leaders in circular
15 construction; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
18 to submit annual reports of its findings and recommendations,
19 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
20 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session;
21 and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports are requested to
24 include the working group's successes and opportunities for
25 further action in advancing the circular construction economy;
26 and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;
30 Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Education; Director of
31 Transportation; and President of the University of Hawaii.

