
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REVIEW OF AMBIENT AIR STANDARDS FOR HYDROGEN
SULFIDE EMISSIONS TO SUSTAIN AND PROTECT THE NATURAL BEAUTY
AND AIR QUALITY OF THE KA IWI COASTLINE BETWEEN MAKAPUU AND
HANAUMA BAY.

1 WHEREAS, the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant in Hawaii
2 Kai, sometimes referred to as the Hawaii American Water Works,
3 is privately owned by the Hawaii American Water Company; and
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5 WHEREAS, the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant is
6 located on the famous Ka Iwi shoreline, now part of the Ka Iwi
7 State Wilderness area, and across the highway from the popular
8 Sandy Beach recreation area, as well as in proximity to a
9 residential community; and
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11 WHEREAS, both the State and the City and County of Honolulu
12 have spent significant sums of money to protect the coastline
13 from development, enhance its beauty, and preserve it for the
14 enjoyment of future generations; and
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16 WHEREAS, there have been ongoing complaints from the public
17 about rotten egg odors of hydrogen sulfide coming from the East
18 Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant; and
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20 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is a harmful and potentially
21 lethal poison and is recognizable by its distinctive rotten egg
22 odor; and
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24 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is created during the breakdown
25 of organic materials and is a common byproduct of sewage
26 treatment facilities; and
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28 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide can be detected and recognized
29 even at very low concentrations, and it is estimated that half



1 of all people can recognize the smell of hydrogen sulfide at a
2 concentration as low as 4.7 parts per billion; and
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4 WHEREAS, studies have found that ambient air concentrations
5 as low as seven to ten parts per billion can cause symptoms such
6 as headaches and eye and throat irritations and that children
7 are more sensitive to hydrogen sulfide and may experience health
8 effects at lower exposure levels; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Health currently allows
11 ambient air concentrations of hydrogen sulfide which do not
12 exceed an average of twenty-five parts per billion in any one-
13 hour period; and
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15 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recommends that, in
16 order to avoid substantial complaints about odor annoyance,
17 hydrogen sulfide concentrations should not be allowed to exceed
18 five parts per billion on average over any thirty-minute period;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Health ambient air standard is
22 currently five times this level averaged over a longer one-hour
23 period; and
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25 WHEREAS, Article XI of the Hawaii State Constitution
26 requires the State and counties to "conserve and protect
27 Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including
28 land, water, air, minerals and energy sources" for the benefit
29 of present and future generations; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
33 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
34 Health is urged to review its existing ambient air standards for
35 public exposure to hydrogen sulfide emissions with the goal of
36 reducing applicable standards to further protect the public; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
39 is requested to require the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant
40 to strictly comply with odor standards and adopt plans to
41 further control hydrogen sulfide emissions and odors; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
3 the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, the Chief
4 Executive Officer of the Hawaii American Water Company, and the
5 Chairperson of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 13 2007

