
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CERTAIN ACTION CONCERNING THE CONDUCTING OF A TEST TO
CONVERT H-POWER ASH TO REUSABLE MATERIAL.

1 WHEREAS, the counties are generally responsible for the
2 management and disposal of solid waste under the oversight and
3 regulation of the Department of Health;

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5 WHEREAS, under this governmental arrangement, the City and
6 County of Honolulu operates two main disposal facilities: the H-
7 Power waste-to-energy facility, which combusts municipal solid
8 waste for the generation of electricity, and the Waimanalo Gulch
9 Landfill, which serves as the disposal site for excess municipal
10 solid waste and H-Power ash and residue; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to the City and County of Honolulu's
13 Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan, dated November 2004, the
14 ash produced at H-Power after combustion of the solid waste is
15 substantial, approximately ninety-three thousand tons annually;
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, at present, the City and County of Honolulu must
19 dispose the ash at the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill; and

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21 WHEREAS, the ash comprises approximately twenty per cent of
22 the total 445,555 tons of solid waste disposed there, according
23 to the Solid Waste Integrated Management Plan; and

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25 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu recognizes the
26 need to divert the ash from the landfill to conserve space and
27 to develop a process to convert ash to reusable material at the
28 H-Power site; and

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1 WHEREAS, this conversion may be problematic because of the
2 possible need for a modification of the H-Power solid waste
3 management facility permit from the Department of Health; and
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5 WHEREAS, section 342H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
6 for the review and issuance of a permit modification
7 application; and
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9 WHEREAS, this section provides for the automatic approval
10 of a permit modification application if the Director of Health
11 does not act within one hundred eighty days of receipt of the
12 application; and
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14 WHEREAS, the one hundred eighty-day period still may be too
15 long, and the expense of applying for the permit modification
16 may be unjustifiable to the City and County of Honolulu or a
17 prospective vendor since this effort would simply be seeking to
18 perform a test; and
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20 WHEREAS, these barriers may prevent the City and County of
21 Honolulu from fully exploring potentially beneficial ash
22 conversion methods; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Director of
27 Health is requested to either:
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- 29 (1) Consider, if legally permissible, waiving the H-Power
30 permit modification requirement for the conduct of an
31 ash conversion test at the H-Power site; or
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33 (2) Suggest an alternative method to conduct a test that
34 would not require a permit modification; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Director cannot do
37 either of the above, the Director is requested to:
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- 39 (1) Expedite the review of any application to modify the
40 H-Power permit to allow the conduct of a on-site test
41 for the conversion of H-Power ash into reusable
42 material; and
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1 (2) Make the decision on such a permit modification
 2 application before the expiration of the one hundred
 3 eighty-day deadline of section 342H-4(d), Hawaii
 4 Revised Statutes;
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature intends that
 7 this Concurrent Resolution apply only to the testing of an ash
 8 conversion process at the H-Power facility and not the permanent
 9 operation of the process if testing is successful; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health and
 13 the Director of Environmental Services for the City and County
 14 of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:

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