
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PURSUE A GLOBAL
SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING WASTEWATER ISSUES WITH THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND URGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY TO RENEW THE 301(H) WAIVERS FOR THE
HONOULIULI AND SAND ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the counties are responsible for constructing,
2 operating, and maintaining the public wastewater collection,
3 treatment, and disposal systems under the oversight and
4 regulation of the Department of Health and the United States
5 Environmental Protection Agency; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency issued to the
8 City and County of Honolulu on March 28, 2007, a tentative
9 denial of a 301(h) waiver for the Honouliuli Wastewater
10 Treatment Plant; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the tentative denial was issued almost 12 years
13 after the City and County of Honolulu applied for the waiver;
14 and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu
17 deemed the tentative denial "unreasonable, unfair, unnecessary,
18 untimely and more than the taxpayers of Honolulu can afford";
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant operates
22 with a 301(h) waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency
23 and continues to provide primary treatment; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu expects
26 Environmental Protection Agency to issue its tentative denial of
27 the 301(h) waiver for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant
28 in the fall of this year; and
29



1 WHEREAS, supporters of the 301(h) waiver say that
2 additional treatment of sewage at Honouliuli and Sand Island
3 wastewater treatment plants is unnecessary and would be very
4 costly; and
5

6 WHEREAS, opponents of the 301(h) waiver say that additional
7 treatment of sewage at Honouliuli and Sand Island wastewater
8 treatment plants is required to protect our marine environment;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, the current mayoral administration has been
12 working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the
13 Department of Health on a \$300 million program of accelerated
14 improvements to the most vulnerable part of Honolulu's
15 wastewater system, the collection system, which includes six
16 critical force mains; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu has committed to
19 almost a billion dollars in sewer work during the current
20 mayor's first three years in office, to be funded by sewer fees
21 that have already been increased and will be increased yet again
22 to finance the force main work; and
23

24 WHEREAS, any mandate by the Environmental Protection Agency
25 requiring immediate compliance on the part of the current City
26 and County of Honolulu administration for secondary treatment
27 after decades of neglect by previous administrations could be
28 unworkable and enormously expensive; and
29

30 WHEREAS, City officials estimate the denial of a 301(h)
31 waiver for Honouliuli will require another \$400 million in
32 construction at that facility, and a similar denial of a waiver
33 for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant would require an
34 additional \$800 million in construction at that facility; and
35

36 WHEREAS, City officials estimate those denials could drive
37 monthly residential sewer fees to \$300 within 20 years to fund
38 those improvements; and
39

40 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of the State of Hawaii's
41 resident population resides within the City and County of
42 Honolulu; and
43



1 WHEREAS, United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye and other
2 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation have urged the
3 Environmental Protection Agency to work with the City and County
4 of Honolulu to reach a global settlement of all wastewater
5 issues; now, therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Environmental
10 Protection Agency, the State Department of Health, and the City
11 and County of Honolulu are encouraged to:

- 12
13 (1) Enter into a global settlement to address issues,
14 including but not limited to recognizing the
15 priorities of the City and County of Honolulu with
16 respect to improvements to the wastewater system;
17
18 (2) Establish a reasonable and workable timeframe for
19 compliance with any applicable Environmental
20 Protection Agency approved settlement relating to the
21 City and County of Honolulu's wastewater system; and
22
23 (3) Identify potential federal and state sources of funds
24 that could be used to supplement city and county funds
25 to finance improvements implemented pursuant to an
26 approved settlement; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii supports the ongoing efforts of Hawaii's
30 Congressional delegation to achieve such a settlement; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature
33 of the State of Hawaii urges the Environmental Protection Agency
34 to grant 301(h) waivers for the Honouliuli and Sand Island
35 wastewater treatment plants to give the named parties time to
36 enter into a global settlement; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
40 State of Hawaii, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,
41 the Director of Health, the Director of Environmental Services,
42 the Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental
43 Protection Agency, Region IX, and members of Hawaii's
44 Congressional delegation.

