

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO WAIVE SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR RESIDENTS OF ANY COMMUNITY WITHIN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY ZIP CODE 96706, AS THOSE COMMUNITIES ARE LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE HONOULIULI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

1 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Department of
2 Environmental Services collects approximately one hundred ten
3 million gallons of wastewater per day from the toilets, sinks,
4 and drains of homes and businesses located on Oahu; and
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6 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu owns or operates
7 nine wastewater treatment plants across the island of Oahu,
8 including the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant located in
9 Ewa Beach; and
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11 WHEREAS, wastewater treatment facilities process wastewater
12 by screening to remove debris, settling to remove organic
13 solids, and treating to different levels, depending on the
14 capacity of each particular facility; and
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16 WHEREAS, effluent, or treated wastewater, is discharged to
17 the ocean, a reservoir, or an underground injection well,
18 depending on the treatment level administered to the wastewater;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, solid waste matter collected during the wastewater
22 treatment process is retained in enclosed heated tanks;
23 pressure-cooked to break the bond with water; broken down
24 further by bacteria to reduce volume, odors, and microorganisms
25 that can cause disease; and eventually sent to a landfill or
26 recycled as fertilizer; and
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28 WHEREAS, a study published in the Journal of Environmental
29 and Public Health in 2016 performed a case control study to
30 investigate any impacts on the quality of life of people living
31 close to a municipal wastewater treatment plant; and
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1 WHEREAS, this study found that there was a significant risk
2 for symptoms including headache, unusual tiredness, and
3 concentration difficulties among the population studied; and
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5 WHEREAS, this study further found increased possibility for
6 respiratory and skin diseases as well as high rates of
7 gastrointestinal symptoms and irritable and moody behavior; and
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9 WHEREAS, due to their close proximity to the Honouliuli
10 wastewater treatment plant, the communities within the area
11 designated by zip code 96706 may be at higher risk for negative
12 health and quality of life impacts; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
16 that the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental
17 Services is requested to waive sewer service charges for
18 residents of any community within the area designated by zip
19 code 96706, as those communities are located in close proximity
20 to the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
24 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, each member of the
25 Honolulu City Council, and Director of the City and County of
26 Honolulu Department of Environmental Services.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Favelle

