

MAR 10 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROHIBIT COMMERCIAL
BURNING WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to protect the environment
2 and public health; and

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4 WHEREAS, the most significant health threat of commercial
5 burning results from the inhalation of fine particulates
6 produced when wood and other organic materials burn; and

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8 WHEREAS, according to the Environmental Protection Agency,
9 exposure to fine particulate air pollution has been linked with
10 respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, including but not
11 limited to asthma, decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis,
12 irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and the risk of death for
13 individuals suffering from heart disease or lung disease; and

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15 WHEREAS, a 2020 study found that poor air quality and air
16 pollution derived from human activities lead to over one hundred
17 thousand deaths in the United States during a single year; and

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19 WHEREAS, the United States Office of Management and Budget
20 reports that regulations enacted between 2004 and 2014 by the
21 Environmental Protection Agency generated between
22 \$157,000,000,000 and \$777,000,000,000 in benefits to the
23 American economy, including reduced health risks caused by fine
24 particulates in air; and

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26 WHEREAS, studies have further shown racial and ethnic
27 minorities have been found to be exposed at higher rates to air
28 pollution based on factors such as socioeconomic status, area of
29 residence, occupation, and neighborhood segregation; and

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31 WHEREAS, decreasing the concentration of fine air
32 particulate pollution lowers the risk of all-cause mortality,
33 respiratory, and cardiovascular diseases; and

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1 WHEREAS, air quality standards, environmental protection
2 policies, and federal legislation, such as the Clean Air Act,
3 aid in the reduction of air pollution; and
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5 WHEREAS, prohibiting the commercial burning of vegetative
6 products in or within the vicinity of residential neighborhoods
7 will reduce air pollution, the spread of fine air particulates
8 into nearby communities, and risks associated with exposure to
9 air pollution; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
13 that the Department of Health is requested to amend its
14 administrative rules and policies to prohibit commercial burning
15 within and adjacent to residential areas, excluding the
16 permitted roasting of coffee; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
19 requested to submit a report of its review and recommendations,
20 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
21 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
22 of 2023; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

Lyn D. Coite

