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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOLID WASTE SECTION,  
SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, TO INVESTIGATE  
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED WASTE DIVERSION BY WORKING WITH THE  
COUNTIES TO ADDRESS EACH COUNTY'S UNIQUE NEEDS ACCORDING TO  
ITS GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND INDUSTRY MAKE-UP.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan defines  
2 "sustainability" as meeting the needs of the present without  
3 compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own  
4 needs; striking a balance between economic, social and  
5 community, and environmental priorities; and respecting the  
6 culture, character, beauty, and history of the State's island  
7 communities; and

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9           WHEREAS, Act 324, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, was enacted  
10 to establish the landfill waste diversion goal of twenty-five  
11 percent by 1995 and fifty percent by 2000; and

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13           WHEREAS, in 2020, the United States Environmental  
14 Protection Agency set its national landfill waste diversion goal  
15 to be fifty percent by 2030; and

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17           WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2022, the State's average waste  
18 diversion rate was 24.8 percent, more than half the waste  
19 diversion goal set in 1991; and

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21           WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2022, the State's average waste  
22 diversion rate, in addition to the incineration rate, was 54.3  
23 percent, meeting the State's and United States Environmental  
24 Protection Agency's diversion goals of fifty percent by 2000 and  
25 2030, respectively; and

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27           WHEREAS, incineration, or the use of waste-to-energy  
28 technology, is a strategy for reducing the State's solid waste



1 from landfills, while extracting energy and valuable materials  
2 for recycling; and

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4 WHEREAS, each county's solid waste management agency has  
5 autonomy within its county to negotiate, collect, recycle,  
6 reuse, or dispose of waste within the county in a manner that  
7 reflects that county's unique needs; and

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9 WHEREAS, part III of chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
10 authorizes each county to develop county integrated solid waste  
11 management plans and requires that these plans be submitted for  
12 public review and comment and state review; and

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14 WHEREAS, these county waste management plans are guidelines  
15 that offer direction and an implementation plan but do not  
16 penalize or enforce losses if a county fails to meet the goals;  
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the State's current role in this process is to  
20 integrate the counties' goals and provide a framework for what  
21 counties should accomplish, as well as to recognize challenges  
22 that each county faces; and

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24 WHEREAS, many of the counties' waste management plans  
25 incorporate existing county documents, such as Hawaii County's  
26 Zero Waste Plan and Maui County's Recycling Initiative, and  
27 these existing plans may be reviewed and incorporated statewide  
28 based on feasibility; and

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30 WHEREAS, given the public's support, the State's  
31 initiatives may be more effective if each county's goals are  
32 incorporated into combined goals for all levels of government;  
33 now, therefore,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
37 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
38 Health's Solid Waste Section, subject to the availability of  
39 funding, is requested to investigate strategies for improved  
40 waste diversion by working with the counties to address each  
41 county's unique needs according to its geography, population,  
42 and industry make-up; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health's Solid Waste Section, subject to the availability of funding, is requested to:

- (1) Evaluate the viability, particularly the economies of scale, of shipping waste from multiple counties to be recycled or incinerated in another county, given current county infrastructure, facilities, and deployed technology;
- (2) Evaluate the viability of shipping waste from multiple counties to be recycled or incinerated in another county with the development of additional infrastructure and facilities, which are appropriately zoned by the State, through a public-private partnership or otherwise;
- (3) Estimate the statewide legacy landfill capacity if an inter-county recycling and incineration program were to be established with and without any additional state infrastructure and facilities; and
- (4) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024 and a final report no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Health; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Mayor of each county; Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services; Acting County Engineer of the Department of Public Works of the County of Kauai; Director of the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Maui; and Director of the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawaii.

