
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOLID WASTE SECTION TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF INITIATIVES 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 in 1991 to establish the landfill waste diversion goal of
11 twenty-five 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, with current infrastructure, facilities, and
28 deployed technology, the State would not be able to meet its
29 landfill diversion goals without the use of incineration; and
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1 WHEREAS, incineration, or the use of waste-to-energy
2 technology, is a promising strategy for reducing the State's
3 solid waste from landfills, while extracting energy and valuable
4 materials for recycling; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
39 Session of 2023, that the Department of Health's Solid Waste
40 Section is requested to develop a plan of initiatives for
41 improved waste diversion by working with the counties to address



1 each county's unique needs according to its geography,
2 population, and industry make-up; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health's
5 Solid Waste Section is requested to:

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7 (1) Evaluate the viability, particularly the economies of
8 scale, of shipping waste from multiple counties to be
9 recycled or incinerated in another county, given
10 current county infrastructure, facilities, and
11 deployed technology;

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13 (2) Evaluate the viability of shipping waste from multiple
14 counties to be recycled or incinerated in another
15 county with the development of additional
16 infrastructure and facilities, which are appropriately
17 zoned by the State, through a public-private
18 partnership or otherwise;

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20 (3) Estimate the statewide legacy landfill capacity if an
21 inter-county recycling and incineration program were
22 to be established with and without any additional
23 state infrastructure and facilities; and

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25 (4) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and
26 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
27 to the Legislature no later than thirty days prior to
28 the convening of the Regular Session of 2024 and a
29 final report no later than thirty days prior to the
30 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. M. ...', written over a horizontal line.

MAR 10 2023

