
SENATE CONCURRENT 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

8
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

12
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

16
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

20
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

26
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

3
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

8
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

13
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

18
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

23
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

29
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,

34
35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
37 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
38 Health's Solid Waste Section is requested to, subject to the
39 availability of funding, 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



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

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

- (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 County of Kauai Department of Public Works; Director of the County of Maui Department of Environmental Management; and Director of the County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management.

