

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR0064**  
**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**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/24/2023

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 The Department estimates that approximately \$500,000 will be needed to develop and  
5 submit an economic viability report that analyzes the prescribed elements in SCR0064.

6 **Department Testimony:** SCR0064 requests that the Department: (1) develop a plan of  
7 initiatives for improved waste diversion rates by working with the counties to address each  
8 county's unique needs; (2) develop an economic report that evaluates the viability of shipping  
9 waste between counties for recycling or incineration given the current infrastructure, evaluates  
10 the viability after developing additional infrastructure, and estimates statewide landfill capacity if  
11 waste is shipped between counties but no new infrastructure is developed; and (3) submit the  
12 economic report to the Legislature.

13 The Department has already begun conducting a similar waste diversion plan prescribed  
14 in SCR0064 to collaborate with all the counties to address solid waste management issues  
15 statewide, including improving waste diversion activities to achieve diversion goals. The update

1 of the state Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plan requires the Department to  
2 convene a task force to review the current county waste management plans and assist the  
3 Department with updating the state ISWM plan. Additionally, all the county solid waste  
4 management administrators have all been invited to join the task force to collaboratively identify  
5 solutions to the state's solid waste issues.

6 The Department conservatively estimates that it will cost approximately \$500,000 to  
7 commission an economic report that evaluates the viability of shipping waste between counties  
8 for recycling or incineration given the current infrastructure, evaluates the viability after  
9 developing additional infrastructure, and estimates statewide landfill capacity if waste is shipped  
10 between counties but no new infrastructure is developed. In addition to updating the state ISWM  
11 plan, the Department has also applied for federal Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant  
12 funds to conduct a statewide waste composition study. With limited staff resources and these  
13 existing projects planned through 2025, the Department will need to contract this portion of  
14 SCR0064 but does not have the funding to contract.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None.

# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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March 24, 2023  
2:00 pm

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SCR64 – 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

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante and Members of the Committees:

We **SUPPORT** SCR64. This resolution calls for the Department of Health's Solid Waste Section to develop a plan of initiatives to increase waste diversion from landfills across the state by working with the counties and exploring the use of waste-to-energy.

The scientific consensus affirms what the communities of West O'ahu, especially Nānākuli, have been experiencing for decades, that landfills are a health hazard. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project (see attachment for visual map), our members and their families in the two census tracts abutting the PVT Landfill operated in Nānākuli live 10 years less than the state average of 82 years, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. As a matter of fairness, every community in Hawaii deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Const. Art. XI, Sec. 9). No one should suffer the ill effects of landfills, so we need to decrease our reliance upon landfills and eventually stop using them altogether.

The Office of Solid Waste Management is uniquely situated in our state to assist the counties with better handling solid waste. Under HRS §342H-34, the director of the Solid Waste Management branch is already empowered to "...consult with and advise any person engaged or intending to be engaged in the management of solid waste." We believe that the state will play a much-needed facilitator role with the counties as they work together and explore how they can collectively increase diversion of waste to landfills, particularly looking at Waste-to-Energy.

Waste-to-Energy, used well, can help mitigate climate change. Hawai'i is the most isolated landmass on the face of the planet and most of our goods are shipped in powered by fossil fuels, including our fossil fuel use for current energy production. Waste-to-Energy would mitigate the methane release from diverting waste from landfills; the metals can be diverted and recycled; and electricity is produced that offset our reliance on fossil fuels as a firm and renewable energy source.

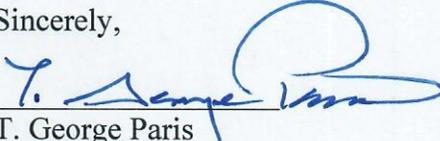
# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

We recognize that each county is responsible for their own 'opala. However, in the spirit of laulima, we recognize that our counties may better solve their individual problems with waste by working together. As part of the construction industry, we recognize that industry still needs waste or disposal facilities including landfills to appropriately process the industry waste. Without those facilities, we would be unable to reach our affordable and workforce housing goals, repair our infrastructure, and do those necessary developments to address the climate crisis.

We believe that so long as we need landfills, that it would be good policy to have them in isolated areas with appropriate zoning. Such sites on O'ahu could include places like Ameron Quarry (with appropriate zone change), Kalaeloa and Campbell Industrial Park, or other lands held by the Federal government. Currently the communities in Nānākuli and Mā'ili/Lualualei are suffering from a public health crisis, with a landfill only a few feet away from homes, farms, and Ulehawa stream. This should not be. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and all those that suffer from landfills in their communities and ask that the state facilitate inter-county initiatives to make landfills obsolete.

We urge the committee to **PASS** these resolutions. Mahalo for the opportunity testimony.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris  
Managing Director



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

**LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625**

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

**T.G. Paris**  
President Emeritus

March 24, 2023 - 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference  
Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SCR64 – Relating to the Waste Management

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Elefante and Honorable committee members,

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SCR64. The resolution requests that 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.

Landfills cause harm to those that live, work, and play next to them. Our members and their families in Nanakuli, Oahu have experienced this reality for decades with the start of the privately held landfill operated construction and demolition landfill that has taken almost 40% of the island's trash since the mid-eighties. No one should have to live next to trash. We believe that this resolution is a step in the right direction, where the solid waste section of the Department of Health is called upon to assist the counties to determine how they can better work together to divert more trash from going towards landfills, and hopefully find a way to make landfills no longer necessary. We support landfill diversion, we support recycling, we support reuse of materials, and we support the exploration of inter-county corroboration and the use of Waste-to-Energy, where appropriate. The Solid Waste Section of the Department of Health is in a prime position to help all our counties better manage their waste. Please consider passing SCR64. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph O'Donnell

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

**SCR-64**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 5:25:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO. We don't want it . Shutdown the Wast water Division!!!!

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA; SENATOR  
GLENN WAKAI;

**FROM:** MAKANA PARIS, HAWAII IRONWORKERS  
STABILIZATION FUND

**SUBJECT:** SCR 64 CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REQUEST

**DATE:** 3/24/2023

**CC:** SENATOR HENRY AQUINO; SENATOR BRANDON  
ELEFANTE

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Aloha: please consider the following amendments that were announced in the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Chair Representative Lowen and confirmed via-email to HCR 109, the counterpart to SCR64:

- p. 2 line 1-3, delete this "whereas" clause
- p. 2 line 6 delete "promising"
- p. 3 line 2 insert "subject to the availability of funding" after the word "section"
- p. 3, line 2 delete "develop a plan of initiatives" and change to "investigate strategies"
- p. 3 line 8 insert "subject to the availability of funding" after the word "section"
- p. 3 line 29 delete "including any proposed legislation"

Please note that the changes above were transposed from the House Concurrent Resolution page and line numbering to the Senate page and line numbering as used in SCR No. 64 (2023-2443 SCR HMSO).

Mahalo for your consideration.

MAR 10 2023

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## 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



# S.C.R. NO. 64

1 ~~WHEREAS, with current infrastructure, facilities, and~~  
2 ~~deployed technology, the State would not be able to meet its~~  
3 ~~landfill diversion goals without the use of incineration; and~~  
4

5 WHEREAS, incineration, or the use of waste-to-energy  
6 technology, is a ~~promising~~ strategy for reducing the State's  
7 solid waste from landfills, while extracting energy and valuable  
8 materials for recycling; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, each county's solid waste management agency has  
11 autonomy within its county to negotiate, collect, recycle,  
12 reuse, or dispose of waste within the county in a manner that  
13 reflects that county's unique needs; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, part III of chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
16 authorizes each county to develop county integrated solid waste  
17 management plans and requires that these plans be submitted for  
18 public review and comment and state review; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, these county waste management plans are guidelines  
21 that offer direction and an implementation plan but do not  
22 penalize or enforce losses if a county fails to meet the goals;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the State's current role in this process is to  
26 integrate the counties' goals and provide a framework for what  
27 counties should accomplish, as well as to recognize challenges  
28 that each county faces; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, many of the counties' waste management plans  
31 incorporate existing county documents, such as Hawaii County's  
32 Zero Waste Plan and Maui County's Recycling Initiative, and  
33 these existing plans may be reviewed and incorporated statewide  
34 based on feasibility; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, given the public's support, the State's  
37 initiatives may be more effective if each county's goals are  
38 incorporated into combined goals for all levels of government;  
39 now, therefore,  
40

41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the



# S.C.R. NO. 64

1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 2 Health's Solid Waste Section <sup>is</sup> requested to <sup>develop</sup> ~~a plan of~~  
 3 ~~initiatives~~ for improved waste diversion by working with the  
 4 counties to address each county's unique needs according to its  
 5 geography, population, and industry make-up; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health's  
 8 Solid Waste Section <sup>is</sup> requested to:

- 9
- 10 (1) Evaluate the viability, particularly the economies of  
 11 scale, of shipping waste from multiple counties to be  
 12 recycled or incinerated in another county, given  
 13 current county infrastructure, facilities, and  
 14 deployed technology;
- 15
- 16 (2) Evaluate the viability of shipping waste from multiple  
 17 counties to be recycled or incinerated in another  
 18 county with the development of additional  
 19 infrastructure and facilities, which are appropriately  
 20 zoned by the State, through a public-private  
 21 partnership or otherwise;
- 22
- 23 (3) Estimate the statewide legacy landfill capacity if an  
 24 inter-county recycling and incineration program were  
 25 to be established with and without any additional  
 26 state infrastructure and facilities; and
- 27
- 28 (4) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and  
 29 recommendations, ~~including any proposed legislation,~~  
 30 to the Legislature no later than thirty days prior to  
 31 the convening of the Regular Session of 2024 and a  
 32 final report no later than thirty days prior to the  
 33 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
- 34

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

*① investigate strategies*  
*② subject to the availability of funding*



S.C.R. NO. 64

1 Management; and Director of the County of Hawaii Department of  
2 Environmental Management.

3  
4  
5

OFFERED BY:

Lyn DeCrista

