
HOUSE 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
29 from landfills, while extracting energy and valuable materials
30 for recycling; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

