

MAR 10 2023

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

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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

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



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



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
2 Health's Solid Waste Section is requested to develop 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

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

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- 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



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

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OFFERED BY:

Lyn DeCrite

