

MAR 09 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF AN ACTIVE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL OR CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILL.

1 WHEREAS, every community in Hawaii deserves a "clean and
2 healthful environment" pursuant to article XI, section 9, of the
3 Hawaii State Constitution; and
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5 WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is that landfills
6 generally -- and construction and demolition landfills
7 specifically -- have negative health impacts for those who live,
8 work, and play in close proximity; and
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10 WHEREAS, Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, established
11 Hawaii's statewide buffer zone law, which prohibits any waste or
12 disposal facility from being located in a conservation district
13 except in emergency circumstances and prohibits persons,
14 including the State or any county, from constructing, operating,
15 modifying, expanding, or closing a municipal solid waste
16 landfill or construction and demolition landfill without first
17 establishing a buffer zone of no less than one-half mile; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the 2008 *Hawaii Environmental Justice Initiative*
20 *Report's* definition of "environmental justice" for Hawaii
21 recognized that "no one segment of the population or geographic
22 area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental
23 and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction,
24 operations and/or use of natural resources"; and
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26 WHEREAS, residents within one-half mile of an active
27 operation of municipal solid waste landfills or construction and
28 demolition landfills are disproportionately burdened generally;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, for example, according to Centers for Disease
32 Control and Prevention data, residents in the two census tracts
33 abutting PVT Land Company LTD.'s landfill in Nanakuli, Oahu, a
34 predominantly Native Hawaiian community, live ten years less



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1 than the state average of eighty-two years and have the second
2 and third lowest life expectancies in the entire State; and
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4 WHEREAS, Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, addressed
5 only future operations of waste and disposal facilities and did
6 not address the safety and health of those residents suffering
7 from the active operation of existing facilities; and
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9 WHEREAS, those living within a one-half mile of an active
10 municipal solid waste landfill or a construction and demolition
11 landfill would benefit from funds made available from a property
12 tax exemption to address their individual safety and health;
13 now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
17 that the City and County of Honolulu is urged to exempt from
18 real property tax those property owners of residential units
19 within one-half mile of an active municipal solid waste landfill
20 or construction and demolition landfill; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the City and
24 County of Honolulu, and each member of the Honolulu City
25 Council.
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OFFERED BY: _____

