
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO URGE CONGRESS TO
FUND CONSTRUCTION OF A LABORATORY CERTIFIED BY THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO
THE PUBLIC ON ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, for decades, the State has been subjected to
2 environmental degradation caused by multiple entities that have
3 deposited materials that are toxic to human health and the
4 natural environment; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State continues to lack adequate testing
7 laboratory facilities certified by the United States
8 Environmental Protection Agency capable of expeditiously
9 identifying diseases and toxins present in the State's air,
10 water, soil, and biological specimens; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents often rely on data relating to
13 environmental toxins that are provided by the very same entities
14 that have caused the toxins to be present in the State's natural
15 environment; and

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17 WHEREAS, the State's ability to evaluate the presence of
18 environmental toxins is often delayed due to the need to send
19 samples to laboratories located in the continental United
20 States, and the results from sample analyses may be withheld by
21 the agencies that control the supply of the samples to those
22 laboratories; and

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24 WHEREAS, the presence of environmental toxins caused by
25 pollutants has notably increased, particularly with the rapid
26 expansion of the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or
27 "PFAS", a group of three synthetic organofluorine chemical
28 compounds that have been found to be highly toxic; and
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1 WHEREAS, a laboratory certified by the Environmental
2 Protection Agency should be constructed in the State to address
3 these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent
4 disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the
5 State; and

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7 WHEREAS, the laboratory should comply with all applicable
8 standards enumerated in the Clinical Laboratories Improvement
9 Amendments of 1988 (title 42 United States Code section 263a);
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12 WHEREAS, the present lack of adequate testing laboratory
13 facilities certified by the United States Environmental
14 Protection Agency negates the State's responsibility to evaluate
15 and, as appropriate, confirm or reject contentions by federal
16 government departments and agencies, including the Department of
17 Defense and United States Environmental Protection Agency; state
18 agencies such as the Department of Health; and other private
19 entities, relating to environmental toxic chemicals such as TPH-
20 D, TPH-O, TPH-G, petroleum constituents, PFAS, PFAS-related
21 substances, and many other toxins found throughout the State's
22 natural environment; and

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24 WHEREAS, the cost of construction of the laboratory is
25 likely in the range of \$100,000,000, and the annual operational
26 cost, including staffing, exceeds \$200,000; and

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28 WHEREAS, these costs are currently beyond the State's means
29 as it endeavors to respond adequately to the catastrophe of the
30 August 2023 Maui wildfires that destroyed Lahaina and damaged
31 Upper Kula, Pulehu, Kihei, and Kaanapali; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's Congressional
36 delegation is urged to take all actions necessary and proper to
37 cause the United States Congress to fund the construction and
38 commencement of operations of a laboratory certified by the
39 United States Environmental Protection Agency to analyze
40 environmental toxins in the State and publish its results to the
41 public; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Department of
2 Health, and other relevant governmental agencies are urged to
3 support the construction and the commencement of operations of
4 the laboratory; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional
8 delegation, Governor, and Director of Health.

