
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE
METHODS USED IN OTHER STATES TO MONITOR AIR POLLUTANTS
EMITTED BY MUNICIPAL WASTE COMBUSTION FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, municipal waste combustion facilities typically
2 emit tons of pollutants into the air that we breathe each day
3 that they operate; and
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5 WHEREAS, current technology used to monitor municipal waste
6 combustion facilities for pollutants is dated; and
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8 WHEREAS, advancements in monitoring technology have enabled
9 more effective methods to gather more extensive data to
10 determine the effects of pollutants on public health; and
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12 WHEREAS, of the twenty-two known pollutants that municipal
13 waste combustion facilities emit, only four are monitored
14 continuously, nine are monitored just once per year, and the
15 remaining nine, which include polyfluorinated substances (PFAS)
16 and various toxic metals, are not monitored at all; and
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18 WHEREAS, monitoring pollutants once per year severely
19 underestimates pollution levels, as demonstrated by the Covanta
20 Delaware Valley municipal waste combustion facility in Chester,
21 Pennsylvania, which replaced annual monitoring with continuous
22 monitoring and found that hydrochloric acid emissions were
23 sixty-two percent higher than what annual monitoring reported;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, dioxin emissions are monitored only once per year
27 in the State, although they are so toxic that the Environmental
28 Protection Agency restricts dioxin levels to a ratio of thirty
29 grams per one trillion liters of drinking water; and
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1 WHEREAS, a recent study found that failure to use
2 continuous monitoring technology at municipal waste combustion
3 facilities underestimates dioxin emissions 460 to 1,290 times;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, annual monitoring may not provide an accurate
7 representation of pollution levels as the content of municipal
8 solid waste burned at municipal waste combustion facilities
9 comprises variable substances, resulting in variable emissions,
10 especially when taking industrial waste, medical waste, sewage
11 sludge, or demolition waste into account; and

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13 WHEREAS, different states employ different methods to
14 monitor pollutants emitted by municipal waste combustion
15 facilities and the experiences of other states may prove helpful
16 in determining the optimal method for Hawaii; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
21 Health (Department) is requested to conduct a study of the
22 methods used in other states to monitor air pollutants emitted
23 by municipal waste combustion facilities; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the Department is
26 requested to cover a broad range of monitoring methods from the
27 least extensive to most extensive, and to include the costs of
28 these methods when possible; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be intended for fact-
31 finding and information-gathering purposes; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
34 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
40 of Health, and Chief Energy Officer.

