
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CAUSE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION AND COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS OF A LABORATORY CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ANALYZE ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS IN THE STATE AND PUBLISH THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC.

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

5
6 WHEREAS, the State continues to lack a testing laboratory
7 certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency
8 that is capable of identifying diseases and toxins present in
9 the State's air, water, soil, and biological specimens; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents often rely on data relating to
12 environmental toxins that are provided by the very same entities
13 that have caused the toxins to be present in the State's natural
14 environment; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the State's ability to evaluate the presence of
17 environmental toxins is often delayed due to the need to send
18 samples to laboratories located in the continental United States
19 and the results from sample analyses may be withheld by the
20 agencies that control the supply of the samples to those
21 laboratories; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the presence of environmental toxins caused by
24 pollutants has notably increased, particularly with the rapid
25 expansion of the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or
26 "PFAS", a group of three synthetic organofluorine chemical
27 compounds that have been found to be highly toxic; and

28
29 WHEREAS, a laboratory certified by the Environmental
30 Protection Agency should be constructed in the State to address



1 these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent
2 disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the
3 State; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the laboratory would need to comply with all
6 applicable standards enumerated in the Clinical Laboratories
7 Improvement Amendments of 1988 (title 42 United States Code
8 section 263a); and

9
10 WHEREAS, the present lack of a laboratory certified by the
11 United States Environmental Protection Agency negates the
12 State's responsibility to evaluate and, as appropriate, confirm
13 or reject contentions by federal government departments and
14 agencies, including the Department of Defense and United States
15 Environmental Protection Agency; state agencies such as the
16 Department of Health; and other private entities, relating to
17 environmental toxic chemicals such as TPH-D, TPH-O, TPH-G,
18 petroleum constituents, PFAS, PFAS-related substances, and many
19 other toxins found throughout the State's natural environment;
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS, the cost of construction of the laboratory is
23 likely in the range of \$100,000,000, and the annual operational
24 cost, including staffing, exceeds \$200,000; and

25
26 WHEREAS, these costs are currently beyond the State's means
27 as it endeavors to respond adequately to the catastrophe of the
28 August 2023 Maui wildfire that destroyed Lahaina and damaged
29 Upper Kula, Pulehu, Kihei, and Kaanapali; now, therefore,

30
31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
33 that Hawaii's congressional delegation is urged to take all
34 actions necessary and proper to cause the United States Congress
35 to fund the construction and commencement of operations of a
36 laboratory certified by the United States Environmental
37 Protection Agency to analyze environmental toxins in the State
38 and publish its results to the public; and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Department of
41 Health, and other relevant governmental agencies are urged to



1 support the construction and the commencement of operations of
2 the laboratory; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,
6 the Governor, and Director of Health.

