HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 1258

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that toxic air pollution from waste incineration disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian residents and is likely underestimated due to a lack of modern monitoring technology required of incineration facilities. The legislature further finds that, according to data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture (H-Power), a waste incinerator located in Campbell Industrial Park on Oahu, is among the largest sources of industrial air pollution, impacting public health and the climate.

The legislature further finds that only four air pollutants are monitored on a continuous basis, while others, if tested for at all, are tested only once per year under optimal operating conditions. Even so, annual stack testing does not occur during startup, shutdown, and malfunction conditions, when certain pollutants are known to be released in higher amounts. The legislature further finds that during prolonged periods of

downtime, aging incinerators produce higher emissions from startup and shutdown occurrences, which are not measured during annual stack testing.

The legislature further finds that advances in technology have enabled more effective methods to continuously monitor for many toxic and otherwise harmful chemicals emitted by waste combustion facilities. The legislature additionally finds that that the EPA has tested and verified the data from more advanced continuous monitors between 2001 and 2007. In fact, Reworld, the operator of H-Power, has been using continuous monitors at some of their incinerators in other States, including continuous monitoring and sampling for hydrochloric acid at certain incinerators in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; long-term sampling for dioxins and furans at an incinerator in Ontario; and mercury, ammonia, and particulate matter at several other incinerators. The legislature notes that under Oregon state law, Reworld is required to continuously monitor for nine different toxic metals and continuously sample for dioxins, furans, and polychlorinated biphenyls. However, these continuous monitors are not used, or required, in Hawaii.

The legislature further finds that the continuous monitoring or sampling of emissions provides more accurate data than annual stack testing. When annual stack testing data was compared to the continuous monitoring of hydrochloric acid emissions at the nation's largest waste incinerator, operated by Reworld in Chester, Pennsylvania, it was found that the actual emissions determined by continuous monitoring were sixty-two per cent higher than that shown by annual stack testing, which is the method used by Reworld at H-Power.

The legislature further finds that dioxins and furans are the most toxic man-made chemicals known to science. According to studies of incinerators in Europe, it was observed that continuous sampling for dioxins at incinerators found the actual emissions to be thirty-two to fifty-two times greater than those reported in the United States, where testing is typically performed on one burner at each incinerator per year, on a rotating basis. Moreover, a more recent study concluded that the failure to deploy continuous sampling technology in the United States results in underestimating dioxin emissions by four hundred sixty to 1,290 times.

The legislature further finds that the monitoring of incinerators is critical in determining community exposure to health hazards from toxic emissions. While many assume that Hawaii's trade winds blow these emissions out to sea, Kona wind conditions blow emissions toward population centers on an average of about one day per week, allowing these harmful chemicals to be released into nearby communities. Moreover, wherever smokestack emissions occur, released chemicals return to the earth with the rain, and when they are blown out to sea, chemicals concentrate in the seafood that is then consumed.

The purpose of this Act is to implement continuous monitoring and sampling technologies that have been tested and verified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency at waste combustion facilities to ensure that the owners or operators continuously monitor, sample, and report the emissions of contaminants.

SECTION 2. Chapter 342B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"**§342B- Waste combustion facilities; monitoring.** (a) The owner or operator of any waste combustion facility shall

develop a plan to continuously monitor or continuously sample emissions of the following contaminants from each combustion unit:

(1) Carbon dioxide;

(2) Ammonia;

(3) Hydrochloric acid;

(4) Hydrofluoric acid;

(5) Particulate matter (total, PM10, and PM2.5);

(6) Volatile organic compounds (VOCs);

(7) Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs);

(8) Dioxins and furans;

(9) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs);

(10) Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS);

(11) Arsenic;

(12) Beryllium;

(13) Cadmium;

(14) Hexavalent chromium;

(15) Lead;

(16) Manganese;

(17) Mercury;

(18) Nickel;

(19) Selenium; and

(20) Zinc.

(b) For each air contaminant under subsection (a), where it is technologically feasible and commercially available to continuously monitor the contaminant, the plan shall provide for the use of a continuous emissions monitoring system to monitor air contaminant. Measurements shall be made available once per minute, where possible, but in no case may the frequency of interval for monitoring samples be less than once every two hours.

If it is not technologically feasible and commercially available to use a continuous emissions monitoring system to monitor an air contaminant, the plan shall provide for the use of a continuous automated sampling system to continuously sample the air contaminant. The long-term sampling shall provide year-round monitoring through back-to-back use of long-term monthly samples.

Under no circumstance shall calculated estimates based on parametric monitoring be used in place of direct monitoring or sampling.

(c) The department shall adopt rules requiring each owner or operator of a waste combustion facility to submit a plan to describe how the owner or operator will:

(1) Conduct continuous monitoring or sampling as required by this section; and

(2) Make emissions data available to the department and the public via a publicly accessible website.

(d) Emissions data shall be reported on a data disclosure website hosted by the department, to be developed by a consultant hired by the operator to meet the following requirements:

(1) All continuous emissions monitoring systems data that is available in a digital format shall be supplied in real-time through an internet feed to the website. Other data, including results from continuous automated sampling systems and annual stack test data, shall be submitted to the website no later than twenty-four hours after the data is available to the owner or operator, whichever party possesses the information sooner. Data shall be provided in in full detail available from the monitoring devices, as well

as summary form, including total amounts of releases of each chemical in pounds per day and per year. In addition to numerical data, data shall be displayed in line charts for each air contaminant and shall be accompanied by lines displaying any local, state, and federal emissions limits that apply. Where regulatory limits are based on rolling averages, a calculated line displaying those rolling averages shall be displayed. The emissions limits displayed shall be adjusted whenever permitted emissions limits change, showing the proper limits that apply at a given time. Emissions data that exceeds state or local emissions limits shall appear on the website in red-colored text so that violations are readily distinguishable from the rest of the data;

(2) The data disclosure website shall be designed to immediately alert, by electronic mail, the owner, operator, the department, and any other parties who enroll to be notified of any violations of data availability requirements or exceedances of local, state, or federal air pollution limitations. For both

types of violations, notices shall be available at the frequency of the recipient's choosing: as they occur, or on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis;

(3) All data submitted to the website shall be archived and maintained such that the history of data is available for download in a commonly available spreadsheet format;

(4) Dioxin and furan data shall be presented in both mass emissions and in toxic equivalents calculated using the most recent toxic equivalency factors used by the World Health Organization or the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the choice of factor shall be disclosed on the website;

(5) The website shall display summary charts listing all violations of any applicable emissions limits per air contaminant for each facility reporting under this section. Daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly summaries of emissions levels and violations shall be made available in an easily understandable presentation format. Emissions trend data shall be presented in

line charts, showing the totals for all reporting facilities, as well as facility-specific trends from the beginning of the reported set through the most recent year. If the facility owner or operator has provided any explanation for a violation, that explanation shall also be listed on the website, available from wherever the violation is displayed;

(6) Any gaps in continuous emissions monitoring system data reporting shall be reported as null values, and explanations shall be reported to the website as separate comments associated with the data gaps or violations. If a waste combustion facility has multiple units or boilers, the data for each unit or boiler shall be presented separately. The operating status for each boiler shall be reported hourly by the operator of any waste combustion facility and shall be reported on the data disclosure website so that emissions data can be displayed alongside information stating whether certain boilers are operating or are in a process of startup or shutdown; and

(7) In addition to the display of emissions data in measurement units corresponding with state and local emissions limits, monthly and annual totals for each monitored air contaminant shall be presented in pounds. The monthly and annual emissions of each air contaminant, in pounds, shall be presented alongside the state and local permit limits in the same units, converted from the concentration limits. The waste combustion facility owner shall disclose stack test data for any air pollution stack test conducted at the facility that is required by state or federal permits. Beginning January 1, 2026, new stack test data for any stack test conducted shall be submitted to the data disclosure website no later than forty-eight hours after the data is available to the owner of the waste combustion facility.

The department shall issue protocols to be used by the owner or operator of the waste combustion facility to report data in a timely manner. The department may adjust any of the requirements of this subsection if the department finds that the objectives can better be met in another manner or format.

(e) By October 1, 2025, the owner or operator of a waste combustion facility shall submit the plan required by this section to the department. Before approving the plan, the department may make modifications to the plan as necessary to ensure the quality and accuracy of sampling or monitoring data. The owner or operator shall implement a plan approved by the department no later than three months after the date of the approval.

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (e), the department may, at the department's discretion, for good cause shown, extend the three-month deadline for submitting or implementing the plan required by this section in three-month periods; provided that the deadline extensions to the submission and implementation of a plan shall not collectively exceed nine months.

(g) The data from continuous monitoring and sampling of air contaminants not already required to be continuously monitored shall not be used for enforcement purposes until the time that the director determines that the data is reliable enough for that purpose. On an annual basis starting twelve months after the first use of new continuous monitoring and sampling equipment established under this section, the director

shall issue a determination on whether the data is reliable for use in the enforcement of permit limits, and whether the necessary regulatory tools exist for enforcement, such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency performance standards; provided that, within twelve months of a determination, the department shall publish rules for enforcement, which shall start not later than twelve months after the department's determination.

Where existing permit limits for an air contaminant are based on annual stack tests, new rules for permit limits based on continuous monitoring or sampling shall closely match the existing limits as much as possible, with averaging times not to exceed twenty-four hours. Where permit limits do not exist for an air contaminant required to be monitored by this section, the department shall establish the most protective permit limits based on the use of air pollution control devices that are commercially available. The director may determine that data on certain, but not all, air contaminants are reliable and ready for enforcement. In subsequent years, determinations shall be made on remaining contaminants for which that reliability determination has not yet been made.

(h) The department shall submit a report of the results of the continuous monitoring and sampling required by this section, including any determination on the use of this data for enforcement and proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session."

SECTION 3. Section 342-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding six new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

""Continuous automated sampling system" means the total equipment and procedures for automated sample collection, sample recovery, and analysis to determine an air contaminant concentration or emission rate by collecting a single sample or multiple integrated samples of the air contaminant for subsequent on- or off-site analysis.

"Continuous emissions monitoring system" means a pollution monitoring system capable of on-site sampling, conditioning, analyzing, and providing a record of emissions of an air contaminant at frequent intervals and meets United States Environmental Protection Agency or department of health data acquisition and availability requirements, where applicable.

"Dioxin" or "furan" means tetra- through octa-chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans.

"Technologically feasible and commercially available" refers to a continuous automated sampling system or continuous emissions monitoring system that is technically possible to install, currently offered for purchase by equipment vendors for the proposed application, and for which service contracts can be obtained for a fee. A determination of commercial availability does not include a cost analysis of the system.

"Waste" means any of the following, or combination of the following:

(1) "Waste" as defined in title II, chapter 58.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules;

(2) Plastics;

(3) Any material that has been source separated for recycling or composting purposes;

(4) Disaster debris;

(5) "Hazardous waste" as defined in title II, chapter 261, Hawaii Administrative Rules;

(6) Processed engineered fuel;

(7) Solid recovered fuel;

(8) Refuse-derived fuel; or

(9) Any material determined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or state agency to be a non-hazardous secondary material.

"Waste combustion facility" means any non-residential facility that:

(1) Disposes of waste, uses waste to heat an industrial process, or uses waste to produce energy, including heat, electricity, or a burnable fuel;

(2) Performs the actions specified in paragraph (1) through the combustion of waste, or gases produced on-site from the burning, gasification, or pyrolysis of waste, or by producing a solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel product through conversion of waste; and

(3) Is capable of processing at least five tons of waste per day.

"Waste combustion facility" does not include landfills, anaerobic digesters, or facilities burning landfill gas or gas produced from anaerobic digestion; provided that these facilities are not also burning waste."

SECTION 4. The department of health shall set annual fees for the owner of each waste combustion facility to cover the costs of developing and hosting the data disclosure website and any other costs necessary to enforce this Act.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

JAN 22 2025

H.B. NO. 1258

Report Title:
DOH; Waste Combustion Facilities; Monitoring and Sampling Plan; Air Contaminants; Website; Report

Description:
Requires owners or operators of waste combustion facilities to develop a plan to implement continuous monitoring and sampling technologies at each combustion unit to monitor and sample for certain air contaminants. Requires a publicly available website hosted by the Department of Health to track and display the data collected on the air contaminants. Requires the Department of Health to adjust permit limits for air contaminants based on the data collected. Requires annual reports to the Legislature.

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