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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A DEMOLITION  
WASTE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's landfills are nearing capacity, with the  
2 State facing significant community opposition to the expansion  
3 of existing facilities or the establishment of new facilities;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental  
7 Protection Agency, construction and demolition waste constitutes  
8 approximately twenty-one to forty percent of landfill mass  
9 nationwide and represents one of the largest contributors to  
10 solid waste in Hawaii, further exacerbating landfill pressures;  
11 and

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13           WHEREAS, a comprehensive and coordinated cross-industry  
14 approach is critical to advancing the circular construction  
15 economy, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable practices  
16 across Hawaii's construction and demolition sectors; and

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18           WHEREAS, local recycling nonprofits and community-based  
19 organizations in Hawaii have made significant progress in  
20 advocating for deconstruction, reuse, and circular economy  
21 principles, but face barriers in scaling these efforts to have  
22 broader policy and economic impact; and

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24           WHEREAS, a construction and demolition waste reduction  
25 working group could serve as a catalyst to coordinate efforts  
26 across industries, identify resources, remove systemic barriers,  
27 and recommend targeted incentives that promote sustainable  
28 practices and economic growth; and

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30           WHEREAS, the adoption of reclaimed and reused materials,  
31 which are often low-embodied carbon alternatives to virgin  
32 materials, could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
33 and support Hawaii's carbon reduction goals, as outlined in Act  
34 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which commits the State to  
35 carbon neutrality by 2045; and  
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1 WHEREAS, landfills have historically been located near  
2 disadvantaged communities, disproportionately exposing these  
3 communities to health risks such as air pollution, groundwater  
4 contamination, and other environmental hazards, and addressing  
5 these injustices should be a central goal of sustainable waste  
6 management policies; and

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8 WHEREAS, the establishment of a working group will help  
9 make actionable recommendations, including reviewing potential  
10 approaches, proposing solutions, and prioritizing actions to  
11 promote deconstruction, materials reuse, and waste reduction;  
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Health, given its mandate to  
15 protect public health and the environment, would be well-suited  
16 to lead the working group to ensure representation from all  
17 relevant stakeholders and alignment with Hawaii's sustainability  
18 and equity goals; now, therefore,

19  
20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
21 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
22 of 2025, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a  
23 Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
26 to:

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28 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce  
29 construction and demolition waste statewide;  
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31 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and  
32 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;  
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34 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction  
35 economy by fostering public and private sector  
36 collaboration;  
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38 (4) Ensure alignment with Hawaii's carbon neutrality and  
39 environmental justice goals; and  
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41 (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives  
42 that promote sustainable practices; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to include the following members:

- (1) The Director of Health, or their designee;
- (2) The Comptroller, or their designee; and
- (3) Private Sector Leaders invited to participate as members of the working group to include:
  - (A) One representative from the construction industry;
  - (B) One representative from the demolition and deconstruction industry;
  - (C) One representative from the reuse retail industry;
  - (D) One representative from the real estate development industry;
  - (E) One representative with expertise in historic preservation;
  - (F) One representative with expertise in architecture;
  - (G) One representative with expertise in urban planning; and
  - (H) One representative from the waste management industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to invite and involve community groups with expertise in workforce development, public policy, and environmental justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to focus on policy innovation and cross-industry collaboration,



1 exploring best practices from successful circular economy  
2 programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark,  
3 the Netherlands, and other global leaders in circular  
4 construction; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
7 to submit annual reports of its findings and recommendations,  
8 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature, no later  
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session;  
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports are requested to  
13 include the working group's successes and opportunities for  
14 further action in advancing the circular construction economy;  
15 and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and  
19 Comptroller.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 7 2025

