
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



1 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which commits the State to
2 carbon neutrality by 2045; and

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4 WHEREAS, landfills have historically been located near
5 disadvantaged communities, disproportionately exposing these
6 communities to health risks such as air pollution, groundwater
7 contamination, and other environmental hazards, and addressing
8 these injustices should be a central goal of sustainable waste
9 management policies; and

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

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

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

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
29 to:

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- 31 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce
- 32 construction and demolition waste statewide;
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- 34 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and
- 35 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;
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- 37 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction
- 38 economy by fostering public and private sector
- 39 collaboration;
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- 41 (4) Ensure alignment with Hawaii's carbon neutrality and
- 42 environmental justice goals; and



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(5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives that promote sustainable practices; and

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

(1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;

(2) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

(3) One representative from the Department of Education;

(4) One representative from the Department of Transportation;

(5) One representative from the University of Hawaii System; and

(6) Private sector leaders invited to participate as members of the working group, including:

(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



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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Education; Director of Transportation; and President of the University of Hawaii.

