
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY-CERTIFIED LABORATORY IN HAWAII TO TEST DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS.

1 WHEREAS, water is life; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Red Hill water crisis that began in November
4 2021 highlighted the vulnerability of the State's aquifers, and
5 demonstrated the dangerous health effects that drinking
6 contaminated water can have on the human body; and

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8 WHEREAS, there is currently no Environmental Protection
9 Agency-certified laboratory in Hawaii that is able to test
10 drinking water for the presence of toxic chemicals, such as
11 total petroleum hydrocarbons, or other contaminants, such as
12 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as
13 PFAS; and

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15 WHEREAS, when drinking water needs to be tested, samples
16 must be transported to California to access a certified
17 laboratory; and

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19 WHEREAS, if testing were conducted locally, testing could
20 be completed approximately one week earlier because travel time
21 and other logistical hurdles could be avoided; and

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23 WHEREAS, because water samples must be transported
24 thousands of miles, there is also the possibility that
25 disruptions, such as transportation issues, could cause a sample
26 to reach an unacceptable temperature, making the sample
27 unsuitable for testing and thus requiring a new sample to be
28 transported; and

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30 WHEREAS, there is also the potential that future
31 emergencies may disrupt transportation to and from Hawaii, which



1 could make transporting water samples out of the State
2 impossible; and

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4 WHEREAS, in emergency situations, delays and risks posed by
5 transporting water samples outside the State for testing are
6 unacceptable and pose a major threat to public health; and

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8 WHEREAS, accordingly, the State should examine the
9 possibility of upgrading its in-state testing capabilities to
10 ensure that public health issues with our drinking water can be
11 quickly identified; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2025, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
16 study the feasibility of:

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18 (1) Establishing in Hawaii an Environmental Protection
19 Agency-certified laboratory capable of testing
20 drinking water for toxic chemicals, such as total
21 petroleum hydrocarbons, and other contaminants, such
22 as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

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24 (2) Upgrading the Department of Health laboratory in Pearl
25 City to meet Environmental Protection Agency
26 certification requirements for testing for toxic
27 chemicals and other contaminants; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study consider:

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31 (1) The initial costs to establish or upgrade a
32 laboratory;

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34 (2) The annual costs required to operate the laboratory;

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36 (3) Effective organizational structures; and

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38 (4) Entities that may be appropriate to host the
39 laboratory; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of
42 Health, Board of Water Supply of the City and County of



1 Honolulu, and other relevant public and private entities are
2 requested to cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau and
3 furnish any information and assistance as the Legislative
4 Reference Bureau reasonably deems necessary to accomplish its
5 purposes; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
8 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Regional Administrator for
15 Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency, Director of
16 Health, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and
17 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply of the
18 City and County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY:


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