

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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

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

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

3
4 (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives
5 that promote sustainable practices; and
6

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

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10 (1) The Director of Health, or their designee;

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12 (2) The Comptroller, or their designee; and

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14 (3) Private Sector Leaders invited to participate as
15 members of the working group to include:

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17 (A) One representative from the construction
18 industry;

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20 (B) One representative from the demolition and
21 deconstruction industry;

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23 (C) One representative from the reuse retail
24 industry;

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26 (D) One representative from the real estate
27 development industry;

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29 (E) One representative with expertise in historic
30 preservation;

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32 (F) One representative with expertise in
33 architecture;

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35 (G) One representative with expertise in urban
36 planning; and

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38 (H) One representative from the waste management
39 industry; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
42 to invite and involve community groups with expertise in



1 workforce development, public policy, and environmental justice;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to focus on policy innovation and cross-industry collaboration,
6 exploring best practices from successful circular economy
7 programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark,
8 the Netherlands, and other global leaders in circular
9 construction; and

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

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

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
24 and Comptroller.

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OFFERED BY: 

