

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO REQUIRE OPERATORS OF WASTE COMBUSTION FACILITIES TO IMPLEMENT CONTINUOUS MONITORING AND SAMPLING TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE BEEN TESTED AND VERIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ENSURE THAT THE OPERATORS CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR, SAMPLE, AND REPORT THE EMISSIONS OF CONTAMINANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture (H-
2 POWER), a waste combustion facility located in Campbell
3 Industrial Park on Oahu, is among the country's largest sources
4 of industrial air pollution, impacting public health and the
5 climate; and

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7 WHEREAS, H-POWER monitors only four air pollutants on a
8 continuous basis, while others, if tested for at all, are tested
9 only once per year under optimal operating conditions; and

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11 WHEREAS, advances in technology have enabled more effective
12 methods to continuously monitor for many toxic and otherwise
13 harmful chemicals emitted by waste combustion facilities; and

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15 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
16 has tested and verified the data from more advanced continuous
17 monitors between 2001 and 2007; and

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19 WHEREAS, Reworld, the operator of H-POWER, has been using
20 continuous monitors at some of their incinerators at other
21 states; including continuous monitoring for hydrochloric acid at
22 certain incinerators in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania;
23 long-term sampling for dioxins and furans at an incinerator in
24 Ontario; and mercury, ammonia, and particulate matter at several
25 other incinerators; and

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27 WHEREAS, under Oregon state law, Reworld is required to
28 continuously monitor for nine different toxic metals and
29 continuously sample for dioxins, furans, and polychlorinated
30 biphenyls; and



1 WHEREAS, these continuous monitors are not used or required
2 in Hawaii; and

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4 WHEREAS, the continuous monitoring or sampling of emissions
5 provides more accurate data than annual stack testing; and

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7 WHEREAS, when annual stack testing data was compared to the
8 continuous monitoring of hydrochloric acid emissions at the
9 nation's largest waste incinerator, operated by Reworld in
10 Chester, Pennsylvania, it was found that the actual emissions
11 determined by continuous monitoring were sixty-two percent
12 higher than that shown by annual stack testing, which is the
13 method used by Reworld at H-POWER; and

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15 WHEREAS, dioxins and furans are among the most toxic
16 manmade chemicals known to science; and

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18 WHEREAS, according to studies of incinerators in Europe, it
19 was observed that continuous sampling for dioxins at
20 incinerators indicated the actual emissions to be thirty-two to
21 fifty-two times greater than those reported in the United
22 States, where testing is typically performed on one burner at
23 each incinerator per year on a rotating basis; and

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25 WHEREAS, a more recent study concluded that the failure to
26 deploy continuous sampling technology in the United States
27 results in underestimating dioxin emissions by four hundred
28 sixty to 1,290 times; and

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30 WHEREAS, the monitoring of incinerators is critical in
31 determining community exposure to health hazards from toxic
32 emissions; and

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34 WHEREAS, Kona wind conditions blow emissions toward
35 population centers in the State on an average of about one day
36 per week, allowing these harmful chemicals to be released into
37 nearby communities; and

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39 WHEREAS, whenever smokestack emissions occur, released
40 chemicals return to the earth with the rain, and when they are
41 blown out to sea, chemicals concentrate in the seafood that is
42 then consumed; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that this body urges the Director of Health to require operators of waste combustion facilities to implement continuous monitoring and sampling technologies that have been tested and verified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the operators continuously monitor, sample, and report the emissions of contaminants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of Hawaii County, Mayor of Maui County, Mayor of Kauai County, and Chairperson of each County Council.

OFFERED BY:



