

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

6
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

10
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

14
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

18
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

26
27 WHEREAS, under Oregon state law, Reworld is required to
28 continuously monitor for nine different toxic metals and



1 continuously sample for dioxins, furans, and polychlorinated
2 biphenyls; and

3
4 WHEREAS, these continuous monitors are not used or required
5 in Hawaii; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the continuous monitoring or sampling of emissions
8 provides more accurate data than annual stack testing; and

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

17
18 WHEREAS, dioxins and furans are among the most toxic
19 manmade chemicals known to science; and

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

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

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

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



1 WHEREAS, whenever smokestack emissions occur, released
2 chemicals return to the earth with the rain, and when they are
3 blown out to sea, chemicals concentrate in the seafood that is
4 then consumed; now, therefore,

5
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that this body urges the
9 Director of Health to require operators of waste combustion
10 facilities to implement continuous monitoring and sampling
11 technologies that have been tested and verified by the United
12 States Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the
13 operators continuously monitor, sample, and report the emissions
14 of contaminants; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
18 of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of
19 Hawaii County, Mayor of Maui County, Mayor of Kauai County, and
20 Chairperson of each County Council.
21
22
23

OFFERED BY: 

