

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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
34 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which commits the State to
35 carbon neutrality by 2045; and



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

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

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

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
22 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
23 Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
26 to:

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28 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce
29 construction and demolition waste statewide;
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31 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and
32 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;
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34 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction
35 economy by fostering public and private sector
36 collaboration;
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38 (4) Ensure alignment with Hawaii's carbon neutrality and
39 environmental justice goals; and
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41 (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives
42 that promote sustainable practices; and



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

- (1) The Director of Health, or their designee;
- (2) The Comptroller, or their designee; and
- (3) Private Sector Leaders invited to participate as members of the working group to include:
 - (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
 - (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,

1 exploring best practices from successful circular economy
2 programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark,
3 the Netherlands, and other global leaders in circular
4 construction; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
7 to submit annual reports of its findings and recommendations,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature, no later
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session;
10 and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports are requested to
13 include the working group's successes and opportunities for
14 further action in advancing the circular construction economy;
15 and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and
19 Comptroller.
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OFFERED BY: 

