

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENSURE THE SAFE MANAGEMENT OF
INCINERATOR ASH FROM WASTE INCINERATOR FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, waste incineration facilities reduce every one
2 hundred tons of trash to approximately thirty tons of ash; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture
5 (H-POWER) is the only trash incinerator in the State, operating
6 in Campbell Industrial Park on the island of Oahu and burning up
7 to three thousand tons of waste per day, making it one of the
8 largest waste incinerators in the nation; and
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10 WHEREAS, the ash produced from H-POWER is currently
11 disposed in the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill in Honokai Hale; and
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13 WHEREAS, although combustor ash from trash incinerators is
14 regulated as hazardous waste in several other countries in the
15 United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
16 (EPA) depends on toxicity tests pursuant to the federal Toxicity
17 Characteristic Leaching Procedure, which is based on the risks
18 the ash poses to groundwater contamination, to determine if the
19 ash should be deemed hazardous waste; and
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21 WHEREAS, the EPA's toxicity tests on incinerator ash do not
22 consider the risks the ash may pose via inhalation, ingestion,
23 or dermal contact, which often leads to potentially dangerous
24 waste being classified as non-hazardous; and
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26 WHEREAS, due to its non-hazardous classification, combustor
27 ash that may pose a risk to public health is not processed with
28 adequate care, often being handled and transported without
29 sufficient respiratory protections for laborers and containment
30 protocols following disposal, which risks public exposure; and
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32 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu is currently
33 working with Reworld, formerly Covanta, to develop an ash
34 "recycling" facility at Campbell Industrial Park where
35 incinerator ash would be exempted from being handled as waste
36 and used to build roads or for other construction purposes, that



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1 may subject workers, the public, and the environment to greater
2 exposure to the potential hazards of incinerator ash than if it
3 were properly contained and disposed of responsibly; and
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5 WHEREAS, roads and other construction materials will erode
6 over time, releasing more ash particles, including particulates
7 of highly toxic dioxins and furans, and toxic metals such as
8 arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
12 that the Department of Health is urged to ensure safe management
13 of incinerator ash from waste management facilities by treating
14 it as solid waste subject to control under part II of chapter
15 342H, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
18 is hereby notified that "recycling" or "reuse" of incinerator
19 ash is not protective of public health, may violate state laws,
20 and should not be pursued; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
24 Chief Energy Officer, of the Hawaii State Energy Office, and
25 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:

