

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 AND CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR AND SAMPLE, AND REPORT THE EMISSIONS OF CONTAMINANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture
2 (H-POWER), a waste combustion facility located in Campbell
3 Industrial Park on Oahu, is among the State's largest sources of
4 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 other pollutants, if tested for at all,
9 are tested only once per year under optimal operating
10 conditions; and

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

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

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

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



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

3
4 WHEREAS, continuous monitors are not used, or required, in
5 the State; 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 the most toxic man-made
19 chemicals known to science. According to studies of
20 incinerators in Europe, it was observed that continuous sampling
21 for dioxins at incinerators found the actual emissions to be
22 thirty-two to fifty-two times greater than those reported in the
23 United States, where testing is typically performed on one
24 burner at each incinerator per year on a rotating basis; and

25
26 WHEREAS, a recent study concluded that the failure to
27 deploy continuous sampling technology in the United States
28 results in underestimating dioxin emissions by 460 to 1,290
29 times; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Kona wind conditions blow waste combustion
32 emissions toward population centers on an average of about one
33 day per week, allowing these harmful chemicals to be released
34 into nearby communities; and

35
36 WHEREAS, wherever smokestack emissions occur, released
37 chemicals return to the earth with the rain, and when they are
38 blown out to sea, chemicals concentrate in the seafood that is
39 then consumed; and
40



1 WHEREAS, the continuous monitoring of emissions from
2 incinerators is critical in determining community exposure to
3 health hazards from toxic emissions; now, therefore,
4

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
16 Mayor of each county, and Chairperson of each County Council.
17
18
19

OFFERED BY:  _____

