

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO FORM A WORKING GROUP ON
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the permit for the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary
2 Landfill in Nanakuli on Oahu expires in 2028; and
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4 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu (City) has not
5 identified any sites for a new landfill that the Honolulu Board
6 of Water Supply finds acceptable because the sites identified
7 are located above aquifers and therefore have the potential to
8 contaminate ground water; and
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10 WHEREAS, the City claims that the only legally available
11 and feasible options for a new landfill are located above
12 aquifers and lands with soils classified by the Land Study
13 Bureau's detailed land classification as overall (master)
14 productivity rating class A or B; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense holds that
17 federal lands controlled by the military are not available for
18 landfill use under federal rules; and
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20 WHEREAS, if no new landfill site is identified, the City
21 will be forced to pursue a legally prohibited expansion of the
22 Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill; and
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24 WHEREAS, a new landfill on Oahu is inherently problematic
25 and is not necessarily the only way that a community can dispose
26 of the solid waste it produces; and
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28 WHEREAS, H-Power, the State's only waste-to-energy plant,
29 is also unpopular and relies on a landfill to dispose of its
30 toxic residues; and
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32 WHEREAS, different waste management technologies such as
33 plasma arc gasification and pyrolysis need to be examined as
34 potential solutions to Hawaii's landfill problem; now,
35 therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
3 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a Solid
4 Waste Management Working Group; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solid Waste Management
7 Working Group is requested to comprise representatives from:

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9 (1) The Department of Health;
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11 (2) The Department of Environmental Services of the City
12 and County of Honolulu;
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14 (3) Each county, as designated by the mayor of that
15 county;
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17 (4) The Honolulu Board of Water Supply;
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19 (5) The recycling industry, who is requested to be invited
20 by the Governor; and
21
22 (6) The composting industry, who is requested to be
23 invited by the Governor; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solid Waste Management
26 Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings
27 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
28 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
29 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
32 include information on solid waste management alternatives that
33 protect the environment, which includes the groundwater, earth,
34 and air, and existing alternatives currently in use; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
38 Mayor of each county, and Manager and Chief Engineer of the
39 Honolulu Board of Water Supply.
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OFFERED BY: 

