

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that per- and
2 polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made
3 chemicals widely used in consumer products, industrial
4 processes, and firefighting foams that are known to persist in
5 the environment and accumulate in the human body over time.
6 Exposure to PFAS has been linked to significant health risks,
7 including but not limited to cancer, liver damage, developmental
8 issues, weakened immune systems, and endocrine disruption.

9 The legislature further finds that PFAS contamination has
10 been detected in water supplies, soil, and air across the United
11 States, raising concerns about the presence of these toxic
12 substances in the State and their impact on the health of the
13 State's residents and natural resources. The geographic
14 isolation of the State and its reliance on a delicate and
15 limited supply of fresh water heighten the need for a thorough
16 understanding of PFAS contamination and its potential impacts on
17 human health and the environment, as the State's ecosystems,



1 including its waterways, bodies of water, fish, and other
2 animals consumed by humans, are integral to the State's food
3 security and cultural practices. The legislature therefore
4 finds that it is necessary to test bodies of water, waterways,
5 and fish and other animals for human consumption to identify
6 possible PFAS contamination, assess potential health risks, and
7 ensure the safety of food and water resources in the State.

8 The legislature additionally finds that the creation of a
9 temporary working group to address the presence of PFAS in the
10 State's environment and food and water supplies can provide a
11 centralized and coordinated approach to assesses PFAS-related
12 issues, engage with stakeholders, and propose actionable
13 recommendations.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a PFAS
15 working group to investigate the existence and environmental
16 dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other related
17 chemicals.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
19 of health for administrative purposes the PFAS working group.

20 (b) The working group shall comprise the following
21 members:



1 (1) The director of health or their designee;

2 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural

3 resources or their designee;

4 (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and

5 biosecurity or their designee;

6 (4) A member with expertise in environmental protection or

7 toxic chemicals representing the university of Hawaii

8 system; and

9 (5) Any other members representing stakeholders that the

10 working group deems relevant, including environmental

11 organizations, industry representatives and community

12 groups, to be invited by the working group.

13 (c) The working group shall:

14 (1) Identify locations in the State where PFAS

15 contamination is present or suspected, including

16 potential sources such as military installations,

17 industrial sites, and landfills;

18 (2) Conduct testing in waterways and bodies of water to

19 assess PFAS contamination levels;



- 1 (3) Conduct tests on fish and other animals consumed by
2 humans to determine the extent of bioaccumulation and
3 potential health risks;
- 4 (4) Assess the environmental and public health risks
5 associated with PFAS exposure, particularly in
6 sensitive ecosystems and vulnerable communities;
- 7 (5) Review existing regulations and practices to identify
8 gaps in PFAS management and mitigation;
- 9 (6) Propose strategies for testing, monitoring,
10 remediation, and prevention of PFAS contamination; and
- 11 (7) Recommend changes to state policies, programs, and
12 resources to address PFAS-related challenges
13 effectively.

14 (d) The members of the working group shall serve without
15 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
16 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

17 (e) No member of the task force shall be subject to
18 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the
19 member's participation in the task force.

20 (f) The working group shall submit annual interim reports
21 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the



1 convening of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028 and a final
2 report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
3 regular session 2029. The reports shall include:

4 (1) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed
5 legislation; and
6 (2) Potential funding sources for the remediation of PFAS
7 in the State.

8 (g) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,
9 2029.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gabbard



S.B. NO. 2095

Report Title:

DOH; PFAS Working Group; PFAS; Toxic Chemicals; Reports

Description:

Establishes a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other related chemicals. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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