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# 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 assess 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 per- and  
20 polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) working group.



- 1 (b) The working group shall comprise the following  
2 members:
- 3 (1) The director of health or their designee;  
4 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
5 resources or their designee;  
6 (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
7 biosecurity or their designee;  
8 (4) A representative of the Honolulu board of water  
9 supply;  
10 (5) A member with expertise in environmental protection or  
11 toxic chemicals representing the university of Hawaii  
12 system; and  
13 (6) Any other members representing stakeholders that the  
14 working group deems relevant, including environmental  
15 organizations, industry representatives, and community  
16 groups, to be invited by the working group.
- 17 (c) The working group shall:
- 18 (1) Assess ongoing work in the department of health to  
19 assess PFAS contamination and provide recommendations  
20 on additional locations appropriate for PFAS testing  
21 and assessment;



- 1           (2) Study sources of potential PFAS contamination in the
- 2           State;
- 3           (3) Examine best practices on PFAS testing, management,
- 4           and mitigation from other jurisdictions and provide
- 5           recommendations on how to apply best practices in the
- 6           State;
- 7           (4) Evaluate the environmental and public health risks
- 8           associated with PFAS exposure, particularly in
- 9           sensitive ecosystems and vulnerable communities;
- 10          (5) Review existing regulations and practices to identify
- 11          gaps in PFAS management and mitigation;
- 12          (6) Propose strategies for testing, monitoring,
- 13          remediation, and prevention of PFAS contamination; and
- 14          (7) Recommend changes to state policies, programs, and
- 15          resources to address PFAS-related challenges
- 16          effectively.
- 17          (d) The members of the working group shall serve without
- 18          compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
- 19          travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.



1 (e) No member of the working group shall be subject to  
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the  
3 member's participation in the working group.

4 (f) The working group shall submit annual interim reports  
5 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
6 convening of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028 and a final  
7 report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
8 regular session 2029. The reports shall include:

9 (1) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
10 legislation; and

11 (2) Potential funding sources for the remediation of PFAS  
12 in the State.

13 (g) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,  
14 2029.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**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. Requires reports to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

