
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DUST MONITORING STATIONS IN AND AROUND WAIMANALO GULCH TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

1 WHEREAS, dust and airborne particulate matter can pose
2 serious health risks, including respiratory, cardiovascular, and
3 allergic conditions; and

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5 WHEREAS, dust may carry heavy metals, organic chemicals,
6 pathogens, bioaerosols, silica, asbestos, or other harmful
7 substances; and

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9 WHEREAS, dust monitoring is the process of measuring and
10 tracking the concentration, type, and movement of dust particles
11 in the air or in a specific environment; and

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13 WHEREAS, a dust monitoring station is a device or network
14 of devices that continuously measures airborne particulate
15 matter, including coarse (PM10) and fine (PM2.5) particles, and
16 can provide real-time data on dust levels; and

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18 WHEREAS, dust monitoring stations help protect public
19 health by identifying elevated levels of harmful particulate
20 matter that can aggravate respiratory, cardiovascular, and
21 allergic conditions, particularly among vulnerable populations
22 such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing
23 health conditions; and

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25 WHEREAS, the data collected by dust monitoring stations
26 supports informed policy and regulatory decisions by
27 providing accurate, site-specific measurements of airborne dust,
28 enabling agencies to implement effective mitigation strategies
29 and ensure compliance with environmental standards; and
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1 WHEREAS, real-time and historical data from dust monitoring
2 stations promotes transparency and community engagement
3 by allowing residents, researchers, and local decision-makers to
4 access and understand air quality conditions in their area; and
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6 WHEREAS, dust monitoring stations can also support
7 environmental research and long-term planning by tracking trends
8 in airborne particulate matter, identifying sources of dust
9 pollution, and assessing the effectiveness of dust control
10 measures over time; and
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12 WHEREAS, Waimanalo Gulch, including the Waimanalo Gulch
13 Sanitary Landfill, is a site of ongoing waste management and
14 landfill activity that can generate dust impacting surrounding
15 communities; and
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17 WHEREAS, current air quality monitoring in the vicinity
18 does not include dedicated dust monitoring stations at
19 or immediately surrounding Waimanalo Gulch, limiting the ability
20 of state and local agencies to assess exposure risks and
21 implement mitigation measures; and
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23 WHEREAS, establishing dust monitoring stations would
24 provide critical data to inform public health protections,
25 enforce environmental regulations, and guide dust control and
26 mitigation strategies; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Clean Air Branch of the Department of Health,
29 has the expertise and technical capability to establish and
30 maintain particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) monitoring
31 stations, as demonstrated by existing monitoring sites on Oahu;
32 now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature
35 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the House of
36 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health, in
37 coordination with other relevant agencies, is urged to make
38 recommendations on:
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- 40 (1) The establishment of dust monitoring stations at
41 strategic locations in and around Waimanalo Gulch,
42 with a focus on PM2.5 and PM10;



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- (2) Provision of real-time public access to dust and air quality data collected from these stations; and
- (3) Development of a plan for regular reporting, data review, and community notification in the event that particulate matter levels exceed safe thresholds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, in coordination with the City and County of Honolulu and other relevant agencies, is requested to submit a comprehensive report to the Legislature on the recommendations of dust monitoring stations in and around Waimanalo Gulch, including:

- (1) The locations, types, and technical specifications of proposed or existing dust monitoring stations;
- (2) The levels and types of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10) and other airborne contaminants detected;
- (3) The potential sources of dust and associated risks to public health and the environment;
- (4) Recommended strategies for dust mitigation and community protection; and
- (5) Any relevant data, findings, or trends from ongoing monitoring efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

