
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO
CONVENE A DEMOLITION WASTE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's landfills are nearing capacity, with the
2 State facing significant community opposition to the expansion
3 of existing facilities or the establishment of new facilities;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental
7 Protection Agency, construction and demolition waste constitutes
8 approximately twenty-one to forty percent of landfill mass
9 nationwide and represents one of the largest contributors to
10 solid waste in Hawaii, further exacerbating landfill pressures;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, a comprehensive and coordinated cross-industry
14 approach is critical to advancing the circular construction
15 economy, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable practices
16 across the State's construction and demolition sectors; and

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18 WHEREAS, local recycling nonprofits and community-based
19 organizations in the State have made significant progress in
20 advocating for deconstruction, reuse, and circular economy
21 principles, but face barriers in scaling these efforts to have a
22 broader policy and economic impact; and

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24 WHEREAS, a construction and demolition waste reduction
25 working group could serve as a catalyst to coordinate efforts
26 across industries, identify resources, remove systemic barriers,
27 and recommend targeted incentives that promote sustainable
28 practices and economic growth; and

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30 WHEREAS, the adoption of reclaimed and reused materials,
31 which are often low-embodied carbon alternatives to virgin



1 materials, could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions
2 and support the State's carbon reduction goals, as outlined in
3 Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which committed the State
4 to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045; and
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6 WHEREAS, landfills have historically been located near
7 disadvantaged communities, disproportionately exposing these
8 communities to health risks, such as air pollution, groundwater
9 contamination, and other environmental hazards, and addressing
10 these injustices should be a central goal of sustainable waste
11 management policies; and
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13 WHEREAS, the establishment of a working group will help
14 make actionable recommendations, including reviewing potential
15 approaches, proposing solutions, and prioritizing actions to
16 promote deconstruction, materials reuse, and waste reduction;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
20 plays a key role in coordinating statewide planning,
21 sustainability initiatives, and cross-agency collaboration, and
22 is well positioned to convene stakeholders to address
23 construction and demolition waste challenges; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning
28 and Sustainable Development is requested to convene a Demolition
29 Waste Reduction Working Group; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
32 to:
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- 34 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce
35 construction and demolition waste statewide;
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- 37 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and
38 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;
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- 40 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction
41 economy by fostering public and private sector
42 collaboration;



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- (4) Ensure alignment with the State's goals; and
- (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives that promote sustainable practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to include the following members:

- (1) The Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, or the Director's designee, who is requested to serve as chair of the Working Group;
- (2) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
- (3) A representative from the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch of the Department of Health;
- (4) A representative from the Refuse Division of the Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu, to be invited by the chair;
- (5) A representative from the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works of the County of Kauai, to be invited by the chair;
- (6) A representative from the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Maui, to be invited by the chair;
- (7) A representative from the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Environmental Management of the County of Hawaii, to be invited by the chair; and
- (8) Private sector leaders invited by the chair to participate, including:
 - (A) One representative from the construction industry;
 - (B) One representative from the demolition and deconstruction industry;



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- (C) One representative from the reuse retail industry;
- (D) One representative from the real estate development industry;
- (E) One representative with expertise in historic preservation;
- (F) One representative with expertise in architecture;
- (G) One representative with expertise in urban planning; and
- (H) One representative from the waste management industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to invite and involve community groups with expertise in workforce development, public policy, and environmental justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to focus on policy innovation and cross-industry collaboration, exploring best practices from successful circular economy programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark and the Netherlands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports are requested to
2 include the Working Group's successes and opportunities for
3 further action in advancing the circular construction economy;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group be dissolved
7 on June 30, 2028; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
11 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Comptroller;
12 Chief of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch of the Department
13 of Health; Chief of the Refuse Division of the Department of
14 Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu; Chief
15 of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works of
16 the County of Kauai; Chief of the Solid Waste Division of the
17 Department of Environmental Management of the County of Maui;
18 and Chief of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of
19 Environmental Management of the County of Hawaii.

