

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE WATER QUALITY AND
CONTAMINATION TESTING RESULTS FOR WAIMANALO GULCH PUBLICLY
ACCESSIBLE.

1 WHEREAS, clean water is essential to the health, safety,
2 and well-being of the residents of Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu relies on its
5 groundwater aquifer as its primary source of drinking water; and
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7 WHEREAS, landfills contain contaminants that, if not
8 properly managed, have the potential to enter groundwater and
9 surrounding watersheds; and
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11 WHEREAS, Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill is a municipal
12 landfill owned by the City and County of Honolulu and operated
13 by Waste Management of Hawaii Inc.; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2009, expansion work began at the Waimanalo
16 Gulch Sanitary Landfill, including construction of a stormwater
17 diversion structure; and
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19 WHEREAS, during the 2009 construction project Waste
20 Management of Hawaii, Inc. used temporary stormwater pipes to
21 divert stormwater around the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, temporary stormwater diversion pipes installed
25 during construction were breached in 2010 and 2011, resulting in
26 the discharge of millions of gallons of contaminated stormwater
27 into coastal areas near the Ko Olina Resort and nearby beaches
28 from Ewa to Nanakuli; and
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30 WHEREAS, in 2014, a federal grand jury issued a thirteen-
31 count indictment against Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc.
32 including violations of the Clean Water Act; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 2019, Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc. and the
2 City and County of Honolulu paid a combined penalty of \$425,000
3 to the State of Hawaii and the federal government for coral reef
4 habitat restoration, monitoring, and conservation on the leeward
5 coast of Oahu; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2019, the State of Hawaii Department of Health
8 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
9 entered a consent decree with the City and County of Honolulu
10 and Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc. to address ongoing
11 compliance issues at the Waimanalo Gulch landfill; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 2023, the EPA and the Department of Health
14 announced that the City and County of Honolulu and Waste
15 Management of Hawaii, Inc. satisfied all requirements under the
16 consent decree, and the United States District Court of Hawaii
17 granted termination of the consent decree; and

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19 WHEREAS, although the consent decree has concluded, the
20 Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill continues to operate pursuant
21 to applicable federal, state, and county environmental laws,
22 including rules and regulations enforced by the EPA and the
23 Department of Health; and

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25 WHEREAS, water quality monitoring and contamination testing
26 related to landfill operations and surrounding watersheds
27 continue in order to ensure compliance with environmental
28 standards and protect public health; and

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30 WHEREAS, timely public access to environmental monitoring
31 data promotes transparency and strengthens community trust in
32 the oversight and regulation of landfill operations; and

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34 WHEREAS, posting water quality and contamination testing
35 results online as soon as practicable after the information is
36 made available to the Department of Health would ensure that
37 residents, researchers, and policymakers have prompt access to
38 information affecting environmental and public health; now,
39 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
3 that the Department of Health is requested to:

- 4 1. Make all current and future water quality and
- 5 contamination testing results for Waimanalo Gulch
- 6 Sanitary Landfill easily accessible to the public
- 7 in a timely and user-friendly manner;
- 8 2. Provide clear information on the types of
- 9 contaminants tested, testing frequency, and
- 10 interpretation of results; and
- 11 3. Collaborate with community organizations,
- 12 environmental groups, and academic institutions
- 13 to promote transparency and public engagement;
- 14 and
- 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Health, in
17 coordination with the City and County of Honolulu and other
18 relevant agencies, is requested to submit an annual report to
19 the Legislature summarizing the water quality and contamination
20 testing results for the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill,
21 including information on contaminants tested, testing frequency,
22 and any actions taken in response to results, to ensure that the
23 Legislature is informed of environmental conditions and public
24 health impacts; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
27 requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than
28 twenty days prior to beginning of each regular legislative
29 session; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health, the Mayor of
33 the City and County of Honolulu, the President of Waste
34 Management f Hawaii, Inc., and other relevant agencies or
35 entities involved in water resource management.

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38 OFFERED BY: Kurt Ferrelle

