

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING 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

17  
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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31           WHEREAS, real-time and historical data from dust monitoring  
32 stations promotes transparency and community engagement



1 by allowing residents, researchers, and local decision-makers to  
2 access and understand air quality conditions in their area; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, dust monitoring stations can also support  
5 environmental research and long-term planning by tracking trends  
6 in airborne particulate matter, identifying sources of dust  
7 pollution, and assessing the effectiveness of dust control  
8 measures over time; and

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10 WHEREAS, Waimanalo Gulch, including the Waimanalo Gulch  
11 Sanitary Landfill, is a site of ongoing waste management and  
12 landfill activity that can generate dust impacting surrounding  
13 communities; and

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15 WHEREAS, current air quality monitoring in the vicinity  
16 does not include dedicated dust monitoring stations at  
17 or immediately surrounding Waimanalo Gulch, limiting the ability  
18 of state and local agencies to assess exposure risks and  
19 implement mitigation measures; and

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21 WHEREAS, establishing dust monitoring stations would  
22 provide critical data to inform public health protections,  
23 enforce environmental regulations, and guide dust control and  
24 mitigation strategies; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Department of Health, Clean Air  
27 Branch, has the expertise and technical capability  
28 to establish and maintain particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)  
29 monitoring stations, as demonstrated by existing monitoring  
30 sites on O'ahu; now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature  
33 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, urges the  
34 Department of Health, in coordination with other relevant  
35 agencies, to:

- 36 1. Establish dust monitoring stations at strategic locations  
37 in and around Waimanalo Gulch, with a focus on PM2.5  
38 and PM10;  
39 2. Provide real-time public access to dust and air quality  
40 data collected from these stations; and



1        3. Develop a plan for regular reporting, data review, and  
 2        community notification in the event that particulate matter  
 3        levels exceed safe thresholds; and  
 4

5        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Health, in  
 6        coordination with the City and County of Honolulu and other  
 7        relevant agencies, is requested to submit a comprehensive report  
 8        to the Hawaii State Legislature on the establishment and  
 9        operation of dust monitoring stations in and around Waimanalo  
 10       Gulch, including:

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

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 22       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
 23       requested to submit its report to the Legislature no later than  
 24       twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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26       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27       Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Hawaii State  
 28       Department of Health, the Mayor of the City and County of  
 29       Honolulu, and any other appropriate state or local agencies.  
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OFFERED BY: *Kurt Ferrell*

