

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
5

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
12

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
17

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
23

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
29

30 WHEREAS, the adoption of reclaimed and reused materials,
31 which are often low-embodied carbon alternatives to virgin
32 materials, could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions
33 and support the State's carbon reduction goals, as outlined in
34 Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which committed the State
35 to achieving carbon neutrality by 2045; and
36



1 WHEREAS, landfills have historically been located near
2 disadvantaged communities, disproportionately exposing these
3 communities to health risks, such as air pollution, groundwater
4 contamination, and other environmental hazards, and addressing
5 these injustices should be a central goal of sustainable waste
6 management policies; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the establishment of a working group will help
9 make actionable recommendations, including reviewing potential
10 approaches, proposing solutions, and prioritizing actions to
11 promote deconstruction, materials reuse, and waste reduction;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
15 plays a key role in coordinating statewide planning,
16 sustainability initiatives, and cross-agency collaboration, and
17 is well positioned to convene stakeholders to address
18 construction and demolition waste challenges; now, therefore,
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
22 that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development is
23 requested to convene a Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group;
24 and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
27 to:
28

- 29 (1) Identify and implement solutions to reduce
30 construction and demolition waste statewide;
31
- 32 (2) Develop strategies to scale deconstruction and
33 materials reuse to reduce landfill dependency;
34
- 35 (3) Support the growth of the circular construction
36 economy by fostering public and private sector
37 collaboration;
38
- 39 (4) Ensure alignment with the State's goals; and
40
- 41 (5) Create a framework for policy and economic incentives
42 that promote sustainable practices; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
3 to include the following members:
4

5 (1) The Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable
6 Development, or the Director's designee, who is
7 requested to serve as chair of the Working Group;
8

9 (2) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
10

11 (3) Private sector leaders invited to participate by the
12 chair, including:
13

14 (A) One representative from the construction
15 industry;
16

17 (B) One representative from the demolition and
18 deconstruction industry;
19

20 (C) One representative from the reuse retail
21 industry;
22

23 (D) One representative from the real estate
24 development industry;
25

26 (E) One representative with expertise in historic
27 preservation;
28

29 (F) One representative with expertise in
30 architecture;
31

32 (G) One representative with expertise in urban
33 planning; and
34

35 (H) One representative from the waste management
36 industry; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
39 to invite and involve community groups with expertise in
40 workforce development, public policy, and environmental justice;
41 and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
2 to focus on policy innovation and cross-industry collaboration,
3 exploring best practices from successful circular economy
4 programs in other regions, such as those implemented in Denmark
5 and the Netherlands; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
8 to submit annual reports of its findings and recommendations,
9 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of each Regular Session;
11 and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reports are requested to
14 include the Working Group's successes and opportunities for
15 further action in advancing the circular construction economy;
16 and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of
20 Planning and Sustainable Development and Comptroller.
21
22
23

OFFERED BY: _____

