
HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR WORKING WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND URGING THESE DEPARTMENTS TO INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE TOOLS TO CREATE EFFECTIVE ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's natural beauty is a treasure that is
2 fragile and vulnerable to environmental degradation; and

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4 WHEREAS, illegal disposing of solid waste is rampant on
5 Oahu and throughout the State, creating an eyesore on the
6 landscape and marring Hawaii's natural beauty; and

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8 WHEREAS, solid waste includes construction and demolition
9 waste, abandoned automobiles, auto parts, scrap tires,
10 appliances, furniture, yard waste, household trash, and medical
11 waste, all of which can contain potentially hazardous wastes,
12 such as asbestos, household chemicals and paints, automotive
13 fluids, and commercial and industrial wastes; and

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15 WHEREAS, there are federal, state, and county laws
16 mandating the proper ways to dispose of solid waste to protect
17 the environment and the health and safety of Hawaii's people;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, enforcement of these laws depends on the
21 participation and vigilance of concerned citizens in communities
22 throughout the State; and

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24 WHEREAS, community-based organizations, such as the
25 Windward Ahupua`a Alliance and the ad-hoc group Malama
26 Waimanalo, have organized to deal with rampant illegal disposal
27 of solid waste in their communities; and

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29 WHEREAS, community-based watchdog organizations have the
30 potential of capturing violators as well as deterring potential



1 violators of the solid waste disposal laws by developing illegal
2 dumping prevention programs; and

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4 WHEREAS, community-based illegal dumping prevention
5 programs can assist federal, state, and county agencies in the
6 prosecution of those who dispose of solid waste illegally by:

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8 (1) Reporting illegal solid waste disposal activities to
9 the appropriate agency;

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11 (2) Organizing clean up projects, community outreach, and
12 education programs; and

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14 (3) Taking other appropriate action to prevent illegal
15 solid waste disposal activity; and

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17 WHEREAS, these community-based programs are in need of
18 tools such as:

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20 (1) Signage, to be posted at chronic illegal dumping
21 sites, clearly informing the public:

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23 (A) That it is illegal to dispose of solid waste,
24 without the written approval of the Director of
25 Health, anywhere other than in a permitted solid
26 waste management system; and

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28 (B) Of the fines and penalties that may apply for
29 illegal dumping; and

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31 (2) Video surveillance equipment that can be monitored by
32 the community-based organization; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2006, that the Department of Health and the Department of
37 Land and Natural Resources be commended for working with
38 community-based organizations to tackle the problem of illegal
39 disposal of solid waste; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
 2 the Department of Land and Natural Resources are urged to
 3 increase their efforts to provide community-based organizations
 4 with the tools necessary to create effective illegal dumping
 5 prevention programs, including but not limited to providing
 6 warning signs and video surveillance equipment; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health
 9 research the costs associated with providing support to
 10 community-based illegal dumping prevention programs and report
 11 its findings and recommendations, including proposed
 12 legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 13 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of
 17 Health, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 18 Resources, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency--Pacific
 19 Islands Contact Office, and the Mayor and the Council
 20 Chairperson of each of the respective counties.
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