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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONSIDER CONDUCTING  
BACTERIA-LEVEL TESTING OF THE SAND AT ALL BEACHES WHERE  
CONTAMINATED WATER WARNING SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED DUE TO  
CONTAMINATION CAUSED BY A SEWAGE SPILL.

1           WHEREAS, high bacteria levels in water are an indicator of  
2           contamination, which can cause illness and infection if the  
3           water is swallowed or if it enters a person's body through the  
4           mouth, eyes, nose, or a break in the skin; and  
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6           WHEREAS, storm-water runoff and sewage spills caused by  
7           heavy rains have resulted in the closure of Hawaii's beaches due  
8           to high bacteria levels in the ocean water that may be hazardous  
9           to human health; and  
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11           WHEREAS, after six weeks of rain in February and March of  
12           2006, the Department of Health (DOH) closed beaches around the  
13           island of Oahu when bacteria levels soared because of storm-  
14           water runoff and sewage spills, including the pumping transfer  
15           of 48,000,000 gallons of raw sewage into the Ala Wai Canal  
16           beginning on March 24, 2006, due to damaged sewer pipes; and  
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18           WHEREAS, as a result of the sewage spill into the Ala Wai  
19           Canal, the Clean Water Branch of DOH and the Department of  
20           Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu  
21           conducted water sampling at 18 beach locations and ten surf  
22           sites in the Ala Moana and Waikiki areas, which resulted in the  
23           posting of warning signs at several beaches, advising beachgoers  
24           and surfers to stay out of the water due to the detection of  
25           elevated levels of bacteria in the water; and  
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27           WHEREAS, while the bacteria levels in ocean water are  
28           tested after heavy rains and sewage spills, the beaches  
29           themselves are not tested, potentially exposing Hawaii's  
30           residents and visitors, without any warning, to levels of  
31           bacteria that may cause illness and infection; now, therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that DOH is requested to  
4 consider conducting bacteria level testing of the sand at all  
5 beaches where contaminated water warning signs have been posted  
6 due to a sewage spill; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOH is requested to work with  
9 the University of Hawaii in developing guidelines for safe and  
10 accurate testing of the sand; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu  
13 is requested to cooperate with DOH in its development of  
14 bacteria-level testing of beach sand; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOH is requested to submit a  
17 report to the Legislature, no later than 20 days prior to the  
18 convening of the Regular Session of 2007, on its findings  
19 related to the bacteria levels at these affected beaches; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
23 of Health, President of the University of Hawaii, and Mayor and  
24 Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu.

