
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE HEALTH IMPACTS
OF THE WAIMANALO GULCH SANITARY LANDFILL.

1 WHEREAS, the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill in West Oahu
2 is a municipal landfill owned by the City and County of Honolulu
3 and operated by Waste Management of Hawaii, Incorporated, that
4 accepts on a daily basis:

5
6 (1) Over fourteen hundred tons of municipal solid waste
7 from county collection routes and transfer stations,
8 private collection companies, and residential and
9 commercial haulers; and

10
11 (2) Nearly four hundred tons of ash from the nearby H-
12 Power plant; and

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14 WHEREAS, a recent Department of Health order issued to the
15 City and County of Honolulu and Waste Management of Hawaii,
16 Incorporated, lists eighteen violations of the operating permit
17 for the landfill, including, for example, the following
18 violations:

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20 (1) Exceeding the landfill's allowed height;

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22 (2) Allowing too much leachate to collect at the bottom of
23 the landfill liner, raising structural stability
24 concerns;

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26 (3) Failing to cover garbage daily with soil on at least
27 twenty-seven working days;

28
29 (4) Failing to submit annual operating reports on time;

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31 (5) Failing to report overfilling in a timely manner;

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33 (6) Failing to place soil on the H-Power ash portion of
34 the landfill for more than a year;

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- 1 (7) Allowing excessive liquids in landfill sump pumps for
- 2 more than four months;
- 3
- 4 (8) Failing to measure and maintain records of liquid
- 5 levels in landfill sump pumps for more than a year;
- 6
- 7 (9) Failing to record the location of asbestos disposal
- 8 and maintain records for over six months;
- 9
- 10 (10) Failing to monitor methane gas and maintain records
- 11 for two years; and
- 12
- 13 (11) Failing to comply with other conditions of the
- 14 landfill's permit; and
- 15

16 WHEREAS, the leachate, volatile organic compounds, gases,
 17 and dust produced by landfills have been linked to adverse
 18 health outcomes, including blood and bone disorders, kidney
 19 damage, cancer, leukemia, liver, and neurological damage; and
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21 WHEREAS, methane gas emitted by landfills is explosive at
 22 certain concentration levels, may be a health hazard due to
 23 other by-product gases, and is known to migrate on-site and off-
 24 site, causing a potential danger to surrounding communities and
 25 posing the danger of release during construction and development
 26 activities; and
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28 WHEREAS, it is well-documented that asbestos releases tiny
 29 fibers into the air that can remain suspended for a long time,
 30 exposure to which is associated with malignant mesothelioma and
 31 other forms of cancer, asbestosis, pleural plaques, and other
 32 respiratory and health-related problems; and
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34 WHEREAS, in the areas surrounding the Waimanalo Gulch
 35 Sanitary Landfill there are thousands of residences, many
 36 businesses, a resort hotel, schools, and much development and
 37 construction activity; now, therefore,
 38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
 40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
 41 that the Department of Health is requested to study the health
 42 impacts of the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill upon the
 43 landfill workers and surrounding communities in West Oahu; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 2 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
 3 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 4 the Regular Session of 2007; and

5
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the Mayor
 8 and the Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu,
 9 and the President of Waste Management of Hawaii, Incorporated.

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OFFERED BY:

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