
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING ON THE COUNTIES' WASTEWATER
PROBLEMS AND ISSUES.

1 WHEREAS, the counties are responsible for constructing,
2 operating, and maintaining the public wastewater collection,
3 treatment, and disposal systems under the oversight and
4 regulation of the Department of Health and the United States
5 Environmental Protection Agency; and

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7 WHEREAS, much of the counties' wastewater systems are
8 antiquated; and

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10 WHEREAS, for example, twenty per cent of the 1,478 miles of
11 wastewater mains operated by the City and County of Honolulu are
12 at least fifty years old; and

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14 WHEREAS, the extreme age of the wastewater systems has
15 required the counties to expend substantial funds on the
16 replacement, renovation, and repair of such systems; and

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18 WHEREAS, these activities are necessary to prevent system
19 failures, such as the line rupture in Waikiki during the March
20 2006 storm that caused the release of forty-eight million
21 gallons of raw sewage into the Ala Wai Canal; and

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23 WHEREAS, in addition to remedying the aged wastewater line,
24 the counties are confronting other wastewater-related issues
25 that require the expenditure of substantial public funds; and

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27 WHEREAS, these issues include upgrading treatment levels to
28 secondary or greater, expanding the counties' collection system
29 to new residential subdivisions, connecting existing un-sewered
30 areas to the counties' system, regulating individual and private
31 wastewater systems, recycling treated effluent, and diverting
32 sewage sludge from landfills by bioconversion into usable
33 products; and
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1 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives has
2 recognized the problems facing local governments across the
3 nation, having recently acted upon legislation to provide
4 federal grants for local wastewater projects; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State currently makes low-interest loans
7 available to the counties for wastewater projects; and

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9 WHEREAS, to increase awareness of the counties' wastewater
10 problems and issues, the counties, the Department of Health, and
11 the United States Environmental Protection Agency should be
12 allowed the opportunity to make comprehensive presentations
13 before the Legislature; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
17 Session of 2007, that the House Committee on Energy and
18 Environmental Protection and House Committee on Water, Land,
19 Ocean Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs are jointly requested to
20 schedule a briefing on the counties' wastewater problems and
21 issues; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committees are requested to
24 invite the county administrations and councils, the Department
25 of Health, and the United States Environmental Protection
26 Agency, Region 9 to make presentations at the briefing; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committees are also urged
29 to invite other interested persons to make presentations; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the House
33 Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and House
34 Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs,
35 each county Mayor and Council Chairperson, the Director of
36 Health, and the Regional Administrator of the United States
37 Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9.

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40 OFFERED BY:

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MAR 14 2007

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