
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PURSUE A GLOBAL
SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING WASTEWATER ISSUES WITH THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

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 (EPA); and
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7 WHEREAS, the EPA issued to the City and County of Honolulu
8 (C&C) on March 28, 2007, a tentative denial of a 301(h) waiver
9 for the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant; and
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11 WHEREAS, the tentative denial was issued almost 12 years
12 after the C&C applied for the waiver; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the
15 Honorable Mufi Hannemann, deemed the tentative denial
16 "unreasonable, unfair, unnecessary, untimely and more than the
17 taxpayers of Honolulu can afford;" and
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19 WHEREAS, the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant operates
20 with a 301(h) waiver from the EPA and continues to provide
21 primary treatment and secondary treatment; and
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23 WHEREAS, the C&C expects the EPA to issue its tentative
24 denial of the 301(h) waiver for the Sand Island Wastewater
25 Treatment Plant in the fall of this year; and
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27 WHEREAS, Mayor Hannemann and several prominent experts in
28 the community, including scientists and engineers have stated
29 that there is no scientific evidence that the Honouliuli or Sand



1 Island Wastewater Treatment Plant needs to provide any more
2 treatment than they currently provide; and
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4 WHEREAS, Mayor Hannemann's administration has been working
5 earnestly, in good faith, with the EPA and the state Department
6 of Health (DOH) on a \$300 million program of accelerated
7 improvements to the most vulnerable part of Honolulu's
8 wastewater system, the collection system, which includes six
9 critical force mains; and
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11 WHEREAS, the C&C has committed to almost a billion dollars
12 in sewer work during Mayor Hannemann's first three years in
13 office, to be funded by sewer fees that have already been
14 increased and will be increased yet again to finance the force
15 main work; and
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17 WHEREAS, C&C officials estimate the denial of a 301(h)
18 waiver for Honouliuli will require another \$400 million in
19 construction at that facility and a similar denial of a waiver
20 for the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant would require an
21 additional \$800 million in construction at that facility; and
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23 WHEREAS, C&C officials estimate those denials could drive
24 monthly residential sewer fees to \$300 within 20 years to fund
25 those improvements; and
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27 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of the State of Hawaii's
28 resident population resides within the C&C; and
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30 WHEREAS, United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye and other
31 members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation have urged the EPA
32 to work with the C&C to reach a global settlement of all
33 wastewater issues; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the
36 State of Hawaii strongly urges the DOH to assist the C&C in
37 persuading the EPA to renew the 301(h) waivers for the
38 Honouliuli and Sand Island wastewater treatment plants; and



1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the
2 State of Hawaii requests the Department of Health to review its
3 water quality standards as they relate to deep ocean marine
4 discharges; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth Legislature
7 of the State of Hawaii joins Mayor Hannemann, Senator Inouye,
8 and others in petitioning the EPA to renew the 301(h) waivers
9 for the Honouliuli and Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plants;
10 and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of
13 the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, demands
14 that the DOH take every action within its authority to work with
15 the C&C and the EPA to arrive at a "global settlement" that
16 addresses Honolulu's wastewater issues in a comprehensive,
17 feasible manner; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of
21 Hawaii, the Director of the Department of Health, and the
22 Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental
23 Protection Agency, Region IX, and members of Hawaii's
24 Congressional delegation.

