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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING A REVIEW OF AMBIENT AIR STANDARDS FOR HYDROGEN  
SULFIDE EMISSIONS TO SUSTAIN AND PROTECT THE NATURAL BEAUTY  
AND AIR QUALITY OF THE KA IWI COASTLINE BETWEEN MAKAPUU AND  
HANAUMA BAY.

1 WHEREAS, the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant in Hawaii  
2 Kai, sometimes referred to as the Hawaii American Water Works,  
3 is privately owned by the Hawaii American Water Company; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant is  
6 located on the famous Ka Iwi shoreline, now part of the Ka Iwi  
7 State Wilderness area, and across the highway from the popular  
8 Sandy Beach recreation area, as well as in proximity to a  
9 residential community; and  
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11 WHEREAS, both the State and the City and County of Honolulu  
12 have spent significant sums of money to protect the coastline  
13 from development, enhance its beauty, and preserve it for the  
14 enjoyment of future generations; and  
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16 WHEREAS, there have been ongoing complaints from the public  
17 about rotten egg odors of hydrogen sulfide coming from the East  
18 Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant; and  
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20 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is a harmful and potentially  
21 lethal poison and is recognizable by its distinctive rotten egg  
22 odor; and  
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24 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is created during the breakdown  
25 of organic materials and is a common byproduct of sewage  
26 treatment facilities; and  
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28 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide can be detected and recognized  
29 even at very low concentrations, and it is estimated that half  
30 of all people can recognize the smell of hydrogen sulfide at a  
31 concentration as low as 4.7 parts per billion; and  
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1 WHEREAS, studies have found that ambient air concentrations  
2 as low as seven to ten parts per billion can cause symptoms such  
3 as headaches and eye and throat irritations and that children  
4 are more sensitive to hydrogen sulfide and may experience health  
5 effects at lower exposure levels; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Health currently allows  
8 ambient air concentrations of hydrogen sulfide which do not  
9 exceed an average of twenty-five parts per billion in any one-  
10 hour period; and

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12 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recommends that, in  
13 order to avoid substantial complaints about odor annoyance,  
14 hydrogen sulfide concentrations should not be allowed to exceed  
15 five parts per billion on average over any thirty-minute period;  
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Health ambient air standard is  
19 currently five times this level averaged over a longer one-hour  
20 period; and

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22 WHEREAS, Article XI of the Hawaii State Constitution  
23 requires the State and counties to "conserve and protect  
24 Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including  
25 land, water, air, minerals and energy sources" for the benefit  
26 of present and future generations; now, therefore,

27  
28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
30 Session of 2007, that the Department of Health is urged to  
31 review its existing ambient air standards for public exposure to  
32 hydrogen sulfide emissions with the goal of reducing applicable  
33 standards to further protect the public; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
36 is requested to require the East Honolulu Sewage Treatment Plant  
37 to strictly comply with odor standards and adopt plans to  
38 further control hydrogen sulfide emissions and odors; and



# H.R. NO. 95

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the  
3 Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, the Chief  
4 Executive Officer of the Hawaii American Water Company, and the  
5 Chairperson of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board.  
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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 13 2007

