
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII AMERICAN WATER COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT AN ODOR
MITIGATION PLAN FOR ITS FACILITY IN HAWAII KAI.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii American Water Company is a wholly-owned
2 subsidiary of American Water, the largest and most
3 geographically diverse provider of water services in North
4 America, and provides wastewater service to nearly 35,000 people
5 in Hawaii Kai and along the Kona Coast of the Big Island; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii American Water Company owns and operates
8 East Honolulu Waste Water Treatment plant; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the East Honolulu Waste Water Treatment plant over
11 several years has been cited at numerous Hawaii Kai Neighborhood
12 Board meetings as the source of excessive offensive odor
13 emissions that have caused residents and vehicular traffic, both
14 local and visitor, passing the plant on Kalaniana'ole Highway and
15 users of Sandy Beach, one of the most popular on Oahu great
16 discomfort, potential health problems and a deterioration in the
17 quality of life; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the offensive odor problems, which smell like
20 rotten eggs, are the result of hydrogen sulfide emissions, most
21 noticeable on Kona and windless days at waste water peak flow
22 times in the early morning and evening hours; and

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24 WHEREAS, as the State Department of Health already knows,
25 hydrogen sulfide can potentially cause eye irritation,
26 respiratory difficulties, vomiting, nausea, and a host of other
27 health problems and a definite deterioration in the quality of
28 life; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the stretch of Kalaniana'ole Highway from Hana'uma
31 Bay to Makapu'u which includes several lookout points, the Blow
32 Hole, Bamboo Ridge, Molokai Lookout, Sandy Beach, Makapu'u



1 Lighthouse, Rabbit Island and the Ka Iwi Coastline, is perhaps
2 the most scenic pristine undeveloped drive on Oahu where
3 residents and visitors alike enjoy Hawaii's natural beauty and
4 where whale sightings are frequent and most popular, but often
5 tainted by the offensive odors emanating from the East Honolulu
6 Waste Water Treatment Plant;

7
8 WHEREAS, The Hawaii State Constitution Art. XI, Section 1
9 states that:

10
11 "a. For the benefit of present and future generations, the
12 State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and
13 protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources,
14 including land, water, **air**, minerals and energy sources,
15 and shall promote the development and utilization of these
16 resources in a manner consistent with their conservation
17 and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.
18 All public natural resources are held in trust by the State
19 for the benefit of the people"; and
20

21 WHEREAS, a representative of Hawaii American Water Company
22 told the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board and the community that
23 while the odor problem could be managed by chemical and other
24 means, it would not be possible to eliminate all odors entirely;
25 however, as there is no government supervision or enforcement of
26 odor mitigation procedures or improvements, it is not known what
27 steps, if any, the East Honolulu Waste Water Treatment plant
28 operators have taken; and
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30 WHEREAS, there have reportedly been studies in the past,
31 most recently in 2006, that address the problem of odor
32 emissions from waste water treatment plants and recommend odor
33 mitigation solutions; and
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35 WHEREAS, representatives of the Hawaii American Water
36 Company have told the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board and the
37 community that they have already implemented some of the
38 recommendations mentioned in this most recent study, however, it
39 has refused to release that study or to say whether it has
40 implemented all the odor mitigation recommendations in that
41 study; and
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43 WHEREAS, other treatment plants, such as, the Orange County
44 Sanitation District in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley,



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1 California which is the third largest treatment facility west of
 2 the Mississippi River, and more than 50 times larger in capacity
 3 flows than the East Honolulu Treatment plant have residential
 4 developments immediately adjacent to its facilities, yet the
 5 odors have been controlled to such an extent that complaints are
 6 rare; now, therefore,

7
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 10 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii American Water
 11 Company is requested to develop an odor mitigation plan
 12 identifying improvements and operations it will take and a
 13 schedule for implementation for the East Honolulu Waste Water
 14 Treatment plant no later than September 2009; and

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 16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Director of the State Department of
 17 Health is requested to monitor the implementation of these odor
 18 mitigation measures and to report to the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood
 19 Board on the progress of such; and

20
 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii American Water Company
 22 is requested to present that plan to the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood
 23 Board, the Public Utilities Commission, the Director of State
 24 Department of Health, the State House and Senate representatives
 25 of Hawaii Kai, and District 4 Honolulu City Councilperson before
 26 September of 2009; and

27
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii American Water
 30 Company, the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board, the Public Utilities
 31 Commission, the Director of State Department of Health, the
 32 State House and Senate representatives of Hawaii Kai and the
 33 District 4 Honolulu City Councilperson.

OFFERED BY:

Barbara Naranjo
Ray Hansen

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