
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii American Water Company (HAWC) is a wholly-
2 owned 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
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7 WHEREAS, HWAC, a regulated public utility, owns and
8 operates East Honolulu Waste Water Treatment Plant (Treatment
9 Plant) in Hawaii Kai on Oahu; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board has received
12 numerous complaints regarding excessive offensive odor emissions
13 emanating from the Treatment Plant; and
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15 WHEREAS, these odors have contributed to a deteriorating
16 standard in the quality of life for both residents of and
17 visitors to Hawaii Kai; and
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19 WHEREAS, the offensive odor is the result of hydrogen
20 sulfide emissions, and is most noticeable during peak periods of
21 wastewater flow, in the early morning and evening hours; and
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23 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is linked to several health
24 issues, including eye irritation, respiratory difficulties,
25 vomiting, and nausea; and
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27 WHEREAS, the stretch of Kalaniana'ole Highway from Hana'uma
28 Bay to Makapu'u, which includes several scenic lookout points,
29 is one of the most pristine drives on Oahu, where residents and
30 visitors alike enjoy views of Hawaii's flora and fauna, but is
31 often tainted by the offensive odors from the Treatment Plant;
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33 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Constitution affirms in Article XI,
34 Section 1, that "all public natural resources are held in trust
35 by the State for the benefit of the people," and therefore the



1 State is reminded to "conserve and protect Hawaii's natural
2 beauty"; and
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4 WHEREAS, HAWC informed the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board
5 and community that while it would not be possible to eliminate
6 all odors entirely, the odor problem can be managed by chemical
7 and other means; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is no government supervision or enforcement
10 of odor mitigation procedures, and it is not known what steps,
11 if any, have been taken at the Treatment Plant to ameliorate the
12 problem; and
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14 WHEREAS, studies have been conducted examining the issue of
15 odor emission from wastewater treatment plants with recommended
16 odor mitigation solutions, the most recent completed in 2006;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, while representatives of HAWC have stated that
20 they have implemented some of the recommendations of the 2006
21 study, they refuse to release the content of the study and the
22 specific steps they have taken to minimize offensive odor
23 emissions; and
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25 WHEREAS, treatment plants in other areas, including the
26 Orange County Sanitation District in Huntington Beach and
27 Fountain Valley, California which is the third largest treatment
28 facility west of the Mississippi River with more than 50 times
29 the flow capacity of the Treatment Plant, have residential
30 developments immediately adjacent to their facilities and far
31 fewer complaints of offensive odors; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2009, that Hawaii American Water Company is requested to
36 develop an odor mitigation plan for the East Honolulu Waste
37 Water Treatment Plant, identifying improvements it will take to
38 mitigate offensive odor emissions, including a timeline for
39 implementation, no later than September 2009; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii American Water
42 Company is requested to present the completed plan to the State
43 Senator from the 8th District, State Representative from the 17th
44 District, Honolulu City Councilmember representing District 4,



1 Public Utilities Commission, Department of Health, and Hawaii
2 Kai Neighborhood Board no later than September 2009; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
5 is requested to review the rates charged by the Hawaii American
6 Water Company and determine whether they are sufficient to
7 adequately upgrade its facilities, including odor mitigation
8 measures, and if so, whether those odor mitigation measures have
9 been implemented; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 requested to monitor the implementation of these odor mitigation
13 measures and to report any progress to the Hawaii Kai
14 Neighborhood board; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the District 4 Honolulu City
18 Councilmember, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Public
19 Utilities Commission, Chairperson of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood
20 Board, and President of the Hawaii American Water Company.

