
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ADOPT ORDINANCES
PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF BACKWASH FROM NEW RESIDENTIAL
SWIMMING POOLS INTO STORM DRAINS AND REQUIRING DISCHARGE
INTO A SANITARY SEWER.

1 WHEREAS, clean water is essential to the people of Hawaii,
2 nourishing our agricultural crops, providing countless domestic
3 uses, and making industry possible; and
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5 WHEREAS, Article XI, section 7, of the Hawaii Constitution
6 provides that the "State has an obligation to protect, control,
7 and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit
8 of its people"; and
9

10 WHEREAS, swimming pool backwash, which results from the
11 cleaning or flushing out of a pool filter, is filled with
12 contaminants that may include trash, debris, bacteria, and other
13 pollutants; and
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15 WHEREAS, public swimming pools are required by the
16 Department of Health to discharge pool backwash into sanitary
17 sewers, to be treated and properly disposed of; and
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19 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu, Department of
20 Environmental Services, currently allows the practice of
21 discharging pool backwash that does not contain any chlorine
22 residue from single-family residential swimming pools into storm
23 drains if sanitary sewers are not available or household
24 cesspools are located in critical wastewater disposal areas; and
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26 WHEREAS, storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer
27 systems and treatment plants, allowing unfiltered and untreated
28 water filled with contaminants to flow to our streams, lakes,
29 and ocean; and
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31 WHEREAS, polluted runoff can harm wildlife and habitats,
32 make fish and shellfish unsafe to eat, and otherwise poison our
33 precious water resources; and



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1 WHEREAS, like public swimming pools, pool backwash from
2 private residential swimming pools should also be required to be
3 discharged into sanitary sewer systems to ensure its treatment
4 prior to its entry into our water systems; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2009, that the city and county of Honolulu is requested to
9 adopt an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of pool backwash
10 from all new single-family residential swimming pools into storm
11 drains and requiring discharge into sanitary sewers; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ordinance may allow
14 alternatives of discharging pool backwash into a holding tank or
15 settling pond, or by infiltration to the soil, when appropriate
16 and when discharge into the sanitary sewer is not a viable
17 option; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of
21 Honolulu.
22
23
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OFFERED BY:

Lyle B. Berg
Mayor

MAR - 4 2009

