
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY THE BEST PRACTICES AVAILABLE FOR PROTECTING CERTAIN EMPLOYEES FROM LONG TERM EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS WASTES.

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Health is to
2 protect and improve the health and environment for all people in
3 Hawaii; and

4
5 WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Department of Health is to
6 promote health and well-being; and

7
8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that working with hazardous
9 waste materials poses inherent risks to the health and safety of
10 the people who handle them; and

11
12 WHEREAS, specifically, there are certain chemical,
13 biological, and accidental hazards associated with handling
14 hazardous waste materials; and

15
16 WHEREAS, some of these chemical, biological, and accidental
17 hazards include exposure to known pesticides, bacteria, and
18 carcinogens that may cause cancer if they are not treated
19 properly; exposure to dust, fungi, and endotoxins that may lead
20 to lung cancer among workers exposed to organic dust; and
21 exposure to broken glass and used syringes that may lead to the
22 transfer of bloodborne pathogens such as human immunodeficiency
23 virus, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the employees who collect and treat hazardous
26 waste materials on a daily basis could suffer adverse health
27 effects; now, therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative

1 Reference Bureau is requested to study what are considered to be
2 best practices available for protecting the health and safety of
3 wastewater, refuse collection, and disposal systems workers from
4 the dangers of long-term exposure to hazardous wastes; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
7 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
8 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
9 the 2010 Regular Session; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
13 the Hawaii State Director of the United Public Workers, and the
14 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.
15