
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF
HONOLULU TO UPGRADE EXISTING SEWER SYSTEMS IN THE URBAN
CORE BEFORE BUILDING NEW SYSTEMS.

1 WHEREAS, Honolulu's sewer system is old, frail and
2 undersized, and as a result the residents and businesses in
3 Honolulu have suffered many sewage main failures, sewer line
4 failures, and frequent sewage spills; and
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6 WHEREAS, the 2006 spill that flushed 48 million gallons of
7 raw sewage into the Ala Wai Canal is an example of the dire
8 consequences that are inevitable for Honolulu's residents and
9 businesses, Hawaii's reputation as a vacation paradise, and for
10 Hawaii's ecosystem, if attention is not immediately focused on
11 improving Honolulu's sewer system; and
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13 WHEREAS, the 2006 sewage spill is clear evidence that
14 critical and aggressive action must be taken in Honolulu's urban
15 core to rehabilitate and replace main sewer pipes, put in place
16 backup strategies to minimize the risks of force main spills,
17 implement a cleaning and maintenance program, upgrade plant
18 facilities, and repair pump stations, among many other things;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the magnitude of the problem and the magnitude of
22 the consequences of a sewer failure or spill is clearly the
23 greatest in the City and County of Honolulu's most populous
24 areas, thus making it imperative that repair and improvements to
25 the existing sewer system in these areas occur first, taking
26 precedence over the construction of new sewer system projects;
27 and



1 WHEREAS, sewer fees have been drastically increased
2 particularly for the purpose of financing these needed
3 improvements; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Mayor and City Council
8 of the City and County of Honolulu are urged to make it a
9 priority to repair, improve, and upgrade existing sewer systems
10 in the census-designated areas that have the highest population
11 in the City and County of Honolulu, rather than undertaking the
12 construction of new sewer system projects. For purposes of this
13 resolution, "census-designated areas" means areas with a
14 concentration of population identified by the United States
15 Census Bureau for statistical purposes; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sewer fee increases collected
18 from ratepayers for these needed improvements to existing sewer
19 systems be directed for this purpose, rather than for
20 undertaking the construction of new sewer system projects; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and City Council of the
24 City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:

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