
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO INVESTIGATE ILLEGAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, ILLEGAL DUMPING, AND TO PROSECUTE THOSE FOUND TO BE RUNNING THESE SYSTEMS OR DUMPING ILLEGALLY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii and its subordinate counties have
2 experienced a large group of illegal dumpers who hide under the
3 guise of running a transfer station or recycling center; and
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5 WHEREAS, Illegal dumpers are also breaking other laws
6 related to vehicle licensing, insurance, drug possession, or
7 theft; and
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9 WHEREAS, Illegal dumps could contain hazardous wastes and
10 other contamination; and
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12 WHEREAS, Illegal dumps can pollute our land, air, and
13 drinking water sources; and
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15 WHEREAS, Illegally disposed wastes, are often combustible
16 and pose fire hazards, generate toxic fumes if the waste is
17 burned, may contain and conceal hazardous and toxic substances
18 (used oil, needles), may form leachate in areas with heavy rain
19 that pollutes groundwater and soil, if buried, may decompose in
20 time, leading to ground settlement and "cave-ins", may form
21 explosive gases like methane due to waste decomposition, attract
22 rodents (rats, flies, mosquitoes) which may carry infectious
23 disease, and attract more illegal dumping and criminal activity
24 to the community; and
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26 WHEREAS, Legitimately run solid waste management facilities
27 are experiencing problems, as was seen in the problems had by
28 Waimanalo Gulch during the last big rains that inundated Hawaii;
29 and
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1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the State, through the
2 Department of Health, and the City, through the City and County
3 of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, have
4 overlapping jurisdiction over solid waste dumping and water
5 pollution; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that a coordinated effort
8 between state and city agencies tasked with enforcing compliance
9 with State anti-dumping laws is essential to investigate this
10 ongoing problem, coordinate a thorough cleanup, and develop
11 measures to prevent illegal dumping in the future; now,
12 therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2011, that the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch and
17 Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch, the Honolulu Police
18 Department, and the City and County of Honolulu's Departments of
19 Environmental Services and Planning and Permitting are requested
20 to investigate illegal solid waste management systems holding
21 themselves out as transfer stations or recycling centers; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health's
24 Clean Water Branch and Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch, the
25 Honolulu Police Department, and the City and County of
26 Honolulu's Departments of Environmental Services and Planning
27 and Permitting are requested to investigate illegal dumping; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prosecutor of the City and
30 County of Honolulu is requested to prosecute anyone found to be
31 running an illegal waste management system or dumping illegally;
32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health, the Chief of
36 Police of the Honolulu Police Department, the Directors of the
37 Departments of Environment Services and Planning and Permitting
38 of the City and County of Honolulu, and the Prosecutor of the
39 City and County of Honolulu.
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