
HOUSE 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
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29 WHEREAS, sewer fees have been drastically increased
30 particularly for the purpose of financing these needed
31 improvements; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2011, that the Mayor and City Council of the City and County
 4 of Honolulu are urged to make it a priority to repair, improve,
 5 and upgrade existing sewer systems in the census-designated
 6 areas that have the highest population in the City and County of
 7 Honolulu, rather than undertaking the construction of new sewer
 8 system projects. For purposes of this resolution, "census-
 9 designated areas" means areas with a concentration of population
 10 identified by the United States Census Bureau for statistical
 11 purposes; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sewer fee increases collected
 14 from ratepayers for these needed improvements to existing sewer
 15 systems be directed for this purpose, rather than for
 16 undertaking the construction of new sewer system projects; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and City Council of the
 20 City and County of Honolulu.
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 23

OFFERED BY: Rick Cabonilla

John M. Burns

[Signature]

Andy Evans

Kenneth W. ...

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