

JAN 19 2011

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DRINKING WATER.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that laboratory tests  
2           commissioned by the Environmental Working Group found hexavalent  
3           chromium (or chromium-6) in the tap water of thirty-one cities  
4           in the United States. Of the thirty-five cities tested,  
5           Honolulu, Hawaii had the second highest level of chromium-6 in  
6           its tap water, measured at two parts per billion.

7           Chromium is a naturally occurring metal that is used in a  
8           wide variety of industries, including steel manufacturing,  
9           welding, leather tanning, and the production of dyes, pigments,  
10          and alloys. Chromium also occurs in multiple forms. The two  
11          most common are trivalent chromium (chromium-3) and hexavalent  
12          chromium (chromium-6). Although chromium-3 is an essential  
13          nutrient, chromium-6 has been identified since 1990 as a known  
14          human carcinogen when inhaled. In 1992, the United States  
15          Environmental Protection Agency set the legal limit in tap water  
16          for total chromium, a mixture of chromium-3 and chromium-6, at  
17          one hundred parts per billion. However, despite increasing  
18          evidence of the chromium-6's toxic effects, the United States



1 Environmental Protection Agency does not have a legal limit for  
2 chromium-6 in tap water and does not require water utilities to  
3 test for it.

4 The legislature finds that officials in California have  
5 responded to these troubling findings by releasing a public  
6 health goal for chromium-6 in drinking water. California's  
7 office of environmental health hazard assessment has proposed a  
8 new public health goal of 0.02 parts per billion for chromium-6  
9 in California's drinking water. The legislature finds that it  
10 would be in Hawaii's best interest to establish a similar goal  
11 for chromium-6 levels throughout Hawaii.

12 The purpose of this Act is to set a deadline for an  
13 enforceable chromium-6 standard for drinking water.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 340E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§340E- Establishment of interim action levels for  
18 chromium-6 contamination in drinking water. (a) The director  
19 shall establish an interim action level of 0.02 parts per  
20 billion for chromium-6 in drinking water.

21 (b) The director shall distribute to appropriate  
22 government and private institutions for review and comment a



1 draft risk assessment document describing the technical and  
2 scientific methods and parameters utilized to determine the  
3 interim action level for chromium-6. This draft risk assessment  
4 document shall be completed by January 1, 2012. The director  
5 shall consider all comments received relating to the risk  
6 assessment and revise an interim action level if necessary. The  
7 draft risk assessment and all comments received by the director  
8 shall be made available to the public for review.

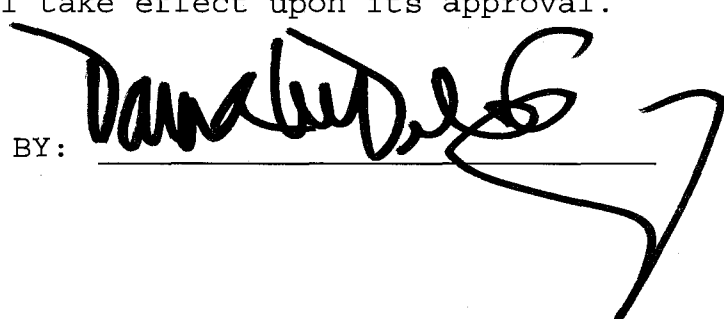
9 (c) The director shall use the draft risk assessment  
10 document and all comments received relating to the risk  
11 assessment and set an enforceable chromium-6 standard for  
12 Hawaii's drinking water. This final enforceable standard shall  
13 be completed by January 1, 2013."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Claitor", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and extends to the right, ending in a large, sweeping flourish.

**Report Title:**

Drinking Water; Chromium-6

**Description:**

Establishes an interim action level of 0.02 parts per billion for chromium-6 in drinking water. A final enforceable standard for chromium-6 shall be in place by January 1, 2013.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

