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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TO DEVELOP  
A PLAN OF INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED REUSE AND RECYCLING OF  
GREEN WASTE BY WORKING WITH THE COUNTIES TO ADDRESS EACH  
COUNTY'S UNIQUE NEEDS ACCORDING TO THEIR GEOGRAPHY,  
POPULATION, AND UNIQUE INDUSTRY MAKE-UP.

1           WHEREAS, in 2008, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force  
2 reported the findings from their two-year study, during which  
3 more than 10,500 residents were interviewed regarding the  
4 direction the State should take in the future; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan defines  
7 sustainability as achieving a quality of life while balancing  
8 the needs of the present without compromising the ability of  
9 future generations to meet their own needs; striking a balance  
10 between economic prosperity, social, and community well-being  
11 and environmental stewardship; and respecting the culture,  
12 character, beauty, and history of the people of our State; and

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14           WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Task Force's goals  
15 are to boost energy from renewable resources from the current  
16 five per cent to twenty per cent of all energy use by the year  
17 2020 and to increase the waste diverted from landfills in the  
18 State through recycling and other waste reduction strategies  
19 from thirty-one per cent to fifty per cent by the year 2020; and

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21           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative is a group of  
22 government, business, and academic leaders who are working  
23 together to achieve targets in energy, food, and ecosystem  
24 security, for a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous future;  
25 and

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27           WHEREAS, in support of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan,  
28 these leaders are working to achieve the ambitious goals for  
29 Hawaii by the year 2030; and



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2 WHEREAS, recognizing different waste streams, including  
3 green and organic waste, that are filling up landfill space,  
4 recent initiatives ban green waste in landfills to enable scarce  
5 landfill space to be used for other wastes; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, demand for more efficient and effective use of  
8 green waste could create new resources for other industries; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative's goals are to  
11 have seventy per cent clean energy (forty per cent from  
12 renewable resources and thirty per cent from conservation),  
13 double the current amount of local food production (up to twenty  
14 to thirty per cent of food consumed locally), reverse the trend  
15 of natural resource loss, and increase local green jobs and  
16 education to achieve these goals; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, each county's Department of Solid Waste  
19 Management, has autonomy within its county to negotiate,  
20 collect, recycle, reuse, or dispose of waste within the county  
21 in a manner that reflects that county's unique needs and

22  
23 WHEREAS, part III of chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
24 authorizes each county to develop county integrated solid waste  
25 management plans and requires that these plans be submitted to  
26 the State for public review; and

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28 WHEREAS, these county master plans are guidelines that  
29 offer direction and an implementation plan, but do not penalize  
30 or enforce losses if a county fails to meet the goals; and

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32 WHEREAS, the State's current role in this process is to  
33 integrate the counties' goals and provide a framework for what  
34 counties should accomplish, as well as to recognize challenges  
35 that each county faces; and

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37 WHEREAS, many of the counties' waste management plans  
38 incorporate existing county documents such as Hawaii County's  
39 Zero Waste Plan or Maui County's Recycling Initiative; these  
40 existing plans may be reviewed and incorporated statewide based  
41 on feasibility; and

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43 WHEREAS, given the public's support, the State's  
44 initiatives may be more effective if each county's goals are



1 incorporated into combined goals for all levels of government to  
2 strive to meet; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Office of Solid Waste  
7 Management of the Department of Health is requested to develop  
8 initiatives for improved reuse and recycling of green waste by  
9 working with each county to address each county's needs,  
10 geography, population, and unique industry make-up and to  
11 investigate turning green waste into a sustainable market of  
12 value-added products; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the initiatives,  
15 the Office of Solid Waste Management is requested to assist each  
16 county in creating a plan with intermediate and long term goals  
17 to reaching Benchmarks Three and Four of the Hawaii 2050  
18 Sustainability plan, as well as the Green Initiative benchmarks,  
19 and creating enforceable penalties for failing to reach goals by  
20 projected deadlines; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Solid Waste  
23 Management is requested to evaluate potential funding and  
24 financing sources for reuse and recycling of green waste and  
25 shall redirect resources where they are needed to ensure that  
26 each county meets its goals; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Solid Waste  
29 Management is requested to submit a preliminary report of its  
30 findings and recommendations including any proposed legislation,  
31 to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the  
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2013 and a final report no  
33 later than thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
34 Session of 2014; and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the  
38 Director of Health; the Director of Business, Economic  
39 Development, and Tourism; the Director of the Office of Solid



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1 Waste Management; and the mayor and council chairperson of each  
2 county.

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OFFERED BY:

*Cindy Evans*

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