

MAR - 5 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO WAIVE SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR RESIDENTS OF ANY COMMUNITY WITHIN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY ZIP CODE 96706, AS THOSE COMMUNITIES ARE LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE HONOULIULI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

1 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Department of
2 Environmental Services collects approximately one hundred ten
3 million gallons of wastewater per day from the toilets, sinks,
4 and drains of homes and businesses located on Oahu; and

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6 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu owns or operates
7 nine wastewater treatment plants across the island of Oahu,
8 including the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant located in
9 Ewa Beach; and

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11 WHEREAS, wastewater treatment facilities process wastewater
12 by screening to remove debris, settling to remove organic
13 solids, and treating to different levels, depending on the
14 capacity of each particular facility; and

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16 WHEREAS, effluent, or treated wastewater, is discharged to
17 the ocean, a reservoir, or an underground injection well,
18 depending on the treatment level administered to the wastewater;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, solid waste matter collected during the wastewater
22 treatment process is: retained in enclosed heated tanks;
23 pressure-cooked to break the bond with water; broken down
24 further by bacteria to reduce volume, odors, and microorganisms
25 that can cause disease; and eventually sent to a landfill or
26 recycled as fertilizer; and

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28 WHEREAS, a study published in the Journal of Environmental
29 and Public Health in 2016 performed a case control study to



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1 investigate any impacts on the quality of life of people living
2 close to a municipal wastewater treatment plant; and

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4 WHEREAS, this study found that there was a significant risk
5 for symptoms including headache, unusual tiredness, and
6 concentration difficulties among the population studied; and

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8 WHEREAS, this study further found increased possibility for
9 respiratory and skin diseases as well as high rates of
10 gastrointestinal symptoms and irritable and moody behavior; and

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12 WHEREAS, due to their close proximity to the Honouliuli
13 wastewater treatment plant, the communities within the area
14 designated by zip code 96706 may be at higher risk for negative
15 health and quality of life impacts; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
19 Representatives concurring, that the City and County of Honolulu
20 Department of Environmental Services is requested to waive sewer
21 service charges for residents of any community within the area
22 designated by zip code 96706, as those communities are located
23 in close proximity to the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant;
24 and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
28 of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, each member
29 of the Honolulu City Council, and Director of the City and
30 County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services.

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33 OFFERED BY: Kurt Fervella

