

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY RELATING
TO ASBESTOS PREVALENCE AND ABATEMENT IN RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTIES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral known
2 for its damaging effects to human health; and

3
4 WHEREAS, damage or disturbance to asbestos-containing
5 materials releases microscopic fibers into the air, which can
6 remain airborne for weeks; and

7
8 WHEREAS, inhaled asbestos fibers lodge in the lungs' soft
9 tissues, forming scar tissue that blocks airways and may lead to
10 deadly conditions, such as asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung
11 cancer; and

12
13 WHEREAS, residential structures built prior to 1978 likely
14 contain asbestos, since asbestos-containing materials were used
15 for residential construction until the mid-1980s; and

16
17 WHEREAS, other municipalities in the United States require
18 an asbestos survey and abatement prior to demolition or
19 renovation of a residential property; and

20
21 WHEREAS, asbestos abatement is not required for the
22 demolition or renovation of residential properties in the State,
23 allowing for potential asbestos exposure to families and
24 workers; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the State lacks an estimate of the number of
27 residential properties potentially containing asbestos and the
28 degree of danger faced by those occupying or working on
29 residential properties undergoing renovations; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the State has an interest in knowing the number of
32 residential properties estimated to contain dangerous levels of



S.C.R. NO. 71

1 asbestos and the potential beneficial impacts on citizens if
2 asbestos abatement for residential property renovations were
3 conducted in the same manner as for commercial property
4 renovations; now, therefore,

5
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
9 Hawaii is requested to conduct a study identifying:

- 10
11 (1) The estimated number of residential structures
12 containing dangerous levels of asbestos in the State;
13 and
14
15 (2) The potential impact of a State-mandated asbestos
16 abatement process prior to renovation or demolition of
17 a residential property, similar to those followed in
18 other jurisdictions, on the State's contractor
19 industry and permitting process; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
22 requested to submit a report of its findings and
23 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
24 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
25 the Regular Session of 2024; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
29 President of the University of Hawai'i System, and Director of
30 the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County
31 of Honolulu.
32
33
34

OFFERED BY: _____

