

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR064 SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOLID WASTE SECTION TO
DEVELOP A PLAN OF INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED WASTE DIVERSION
BY WORKING WITH THE COUNTIES TO ADDRESS EACH COUNTY'S UNIQUE
NEEDS ACCORDING TO ITS GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND
INDUSTRY MAKE-UP**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 4/13/2023 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 The Department estimates that the cost to develop an economic viability report that
5 analyzes the costs and benefits of shipping and incinerating solid waste and waste ash between
6 counties as prescribed in SCR064 SD1, should funds be available, would be approximately
7 \$500,000.

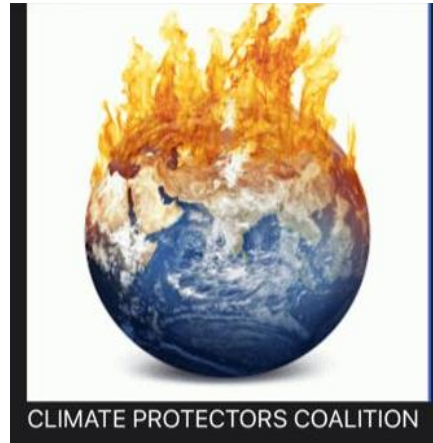
8 **Department Testimony:** SCR064 SD1 requests that, subject to the availability of funds, the
9 Department: (1) investigate strategies for improved waste diversion by working with the counties
10 to address each county's unique needs; (2) develop an economic report that evaluates the
11 viability of shipping waste between the counties for recycling or incineration given the current
12 infrastructure, evaluates the viability of shipping waste between the counties for recycling or
13 incineration after developing additional infrastructure, and estimates statewide landfill capacity if
14 waste is shipped between the counties for recycling or incineration without developing any new
15 infrastructure; and (3) submit a draft of the economic report to the Legislature in 2024 and a final
16 economic report to the Legislature in 2025.

1 The Department notes that it is already working with the counties to improve waste
2 diversion efforts and address solid waste management issues statewide. In late-2022, the
3 Department began updating the state Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plan, which
4 requires the Department to convene a task force to review current county solid waste
5 management plans and assist the Department with updating the state ISWM plan. All county
6 solid waste management administrators, or their delegates, are members of the task force and
7 will investigate strategies to improve waste diversion rates while considering their county's
8 unique needs according to geography, population, infrastructure, local economy, and other
9 factors. In addition to updating the state ISWM plan, the Department has also applied for federal
10 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant funds to conduct a statewide waste
11 composition study, to gather and analyze data to target and manage (and assist the counties with
12 managing) solid waste statewide.

13 With limited staff resources, and an anticipated completion of the ISWM and waste
14 composition projects in 2024 and 2025 respectively, the Department respectfully requests the
15 authority to solicit professional services to develop the economic report detailed in SCR064 SD1.
16 If funding is made available, the Department conservatively estimates that it will cost
17 approximately \$500,000 to commission the economic report.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

19 **Offered Amendments:** None.



To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, the Honorable Vice Chair Elle Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SCR64 SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOLID WASTE SECTION TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED WASTE DIVERSION BY WORKING WITH THE COUNTIES TO ADDRESS EACH COUNTY'S UNIQUE NEEDS ACCORDING TO ITS GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND INDUSTRY MAKE-UP.**

Hearing: Thursday April 13, 2023, 9:15 a.m., room 325

Aloha Chairs Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. HIROC is deeply concerned about solid waste pollution that ends up in the marine environment.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate. Climate Protectors Hawai'i is deeply concerned about solid

waste pollution in the environment, including methane gas released from landfills.

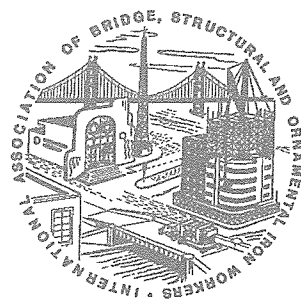
The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **COMMENT** that they **strongly support waste diversion by reducing, reusing, and some recycling of solid waste and composting rather than landfilling organic waste.** However, we **strongly oppose trash incineration, which is not waste diversion** where the toxic ash is disposed of in landfills and contributes to toxic leachate. Trash incineration is also harmful to the environment and human health because burning releases toxic emissions to the air.

This concurrent resolution SCR64 SD1 would ask the Department of Health to work with each the counties to improve waste diversion. The counties are each quite different and so it is appropriate to recognize each county's needs.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i **support this concurrent resolution's goal of improved waste diversion,** provided that the Department's plan of initiatives **should not include trash incineration.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this concurrent resolution!
Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

T.G. Paris
President Emeritus

April 13, 2023 - 9:15 am

Via Videoconference
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SCR64 SD1 –Relating to the Waste Management

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Honorable committee members,

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SCR64 SD1. The resolution requests that the department of Health's Solid Waste Section to develop a plan of initiatives for improved waste diversion by working with the counties to address each county's unique needs according to its geography, population, and industry make-up.

Landfills cause harm to those that live, work, and play next to them. Our members and their families in Nanakuli, Oahu have experienced this reality for decades with the start of the privately held landfill operated construction and demolition landfill that has taken almost 40% of the island's trash since the mid-eighties. No one should have to live next to trash. We believe that this resolution is a step in the right direction, where the solid waste section of the Department of Health is called upon to assist the counties to determine how they can better work together to divert more trash from going towards landfills, and hopefully find a way to make landfills no longer necessary. We support landfill diversion, we support recycling, we support reuse of materials, and we support the exploration of inter-county corroboration and the use of Waste-to-Energy, where appropriate. The Solid Waste Section of the Department of Health is in a prime position to help all our counties better manage their waste. Please consider passing SCR64. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. O'Donnell
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

April 13, 2023
9:15 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SCR64 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOLID WASTE SECTION TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED WASTE DIVERSION BY WORKING WITH THE COUNTIES TO ADDRESS EACH COUNTY'S UNIQUE NEEDS ACCORDING TO ITS GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND INDUSTRY MAKE-UP

Aloha Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Elle Cochran, and Members of the Committees:

We **SUPPORT** SCR64 SD1. This resolution call for the Department of Health's Solid Waste Section to develop a plan of initiatives to increase waste diversion from landfills across the state by working with the counties and exploring the use of waste-to-energy.

The scientific consensus affirms what the communities of West O'ahu, especially Nānākuli, have been experiencing for decades, that landfills are a health hazard. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project (see attachment for visual map), our members and their families in the two census tracks abutting the PVT Landfill operated in Nānākuli live 10 years less than the state average of 82 years, being the 2nd and 3rd lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. As a matter of fairness, every community in Hawaii deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Const. Art. XI, Sec. 9). No one should suffer the ill effects of landfills, so we need to decrease our reliance upon landfills and eventually stop using them altogether.

The Office of Solid Waste Management is uniquely situated in our state to assist the counties with better handling solid waste. Under HRS §342H-34, the director of the Solid Waste Management branch is already empowered to "...consult with and advise any person engaged or intending to be engaged in the management of solid waste." We believe that the state will play a much-needed facilitator role with the counties as they work together and explore how they can collectively increase diversion of waste to landfills, particularly looking at Waste-to-Energy.

Waste-to-Energy, used well, can help mitigate climate change. Hawai'i is the most isolated landmass on the face of the planet and most of our goods are shipped in powered by fossil fuels, including our fossil fuel use for current energy production. Waste-to-Energy would mitigate the methane release from diverting waste from landfills; the metals can be diverted and recycled; and electricity is produced that offset our reliance on fossil fuels as a firm and renewable energy source.

We recognize that each county is responsible for their own 'opala. However, in the spirit of laulima, we recognize that our counties may better solve their individual problems with waste

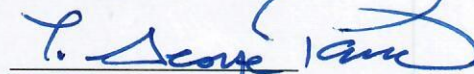
IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

by working together. As part of the construction industry, we recognize that industry still needs waste or disposal facilities including landfills to appropriately process the industry waste. Without those facilities, we would be unable to reach our affordable and workforce housing goals, repair our infrastructure, and do those necessary developments to address the climate crisis.

We believe that so long as we need landfills, that it would be good policy to have them in isolated areas with appropriate zoning. Such sites on O'ahu could include places like Ameron Quarry (with appropriate zone change), Kalaeloa and Campbell Industrial Park, or other lands held by the Federal government. Currently the communities in Nānākuli and Mā'ili/Lualualei are suffering from a public health crisis, with a landfill only a few feet away from homes, farms, and Ulehawa stream. This should not be. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and all those that suffer from landfills in their communities and ask that the state facilitate inter-county initiatives to make landfills obsolete.

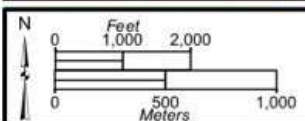
We urge the committee to **PASS** this resolution. Mahalo for the opportunity testimony.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director

Date Saved: 10/12/2018 4:02:03 PM Document Path: F:\Hawaii\GIS\Projects\IVT\Figure 1-1_PVTISWMF.mxd



Location Map
 PVT ISWMF Relocation
 Nanakuli, Waianae District, Oahu, Hawaii

Figure
 1-1

Life Expectancies

Census tracks surrounding
 PVT Landfills including
 Nānākuli & Princess Kahanu
 Homesteads: **~72 yrs.**
 HI Average: **~82 yrs.**
A 10 year loss

CDC/US Department of Health



National Vital Statistics System

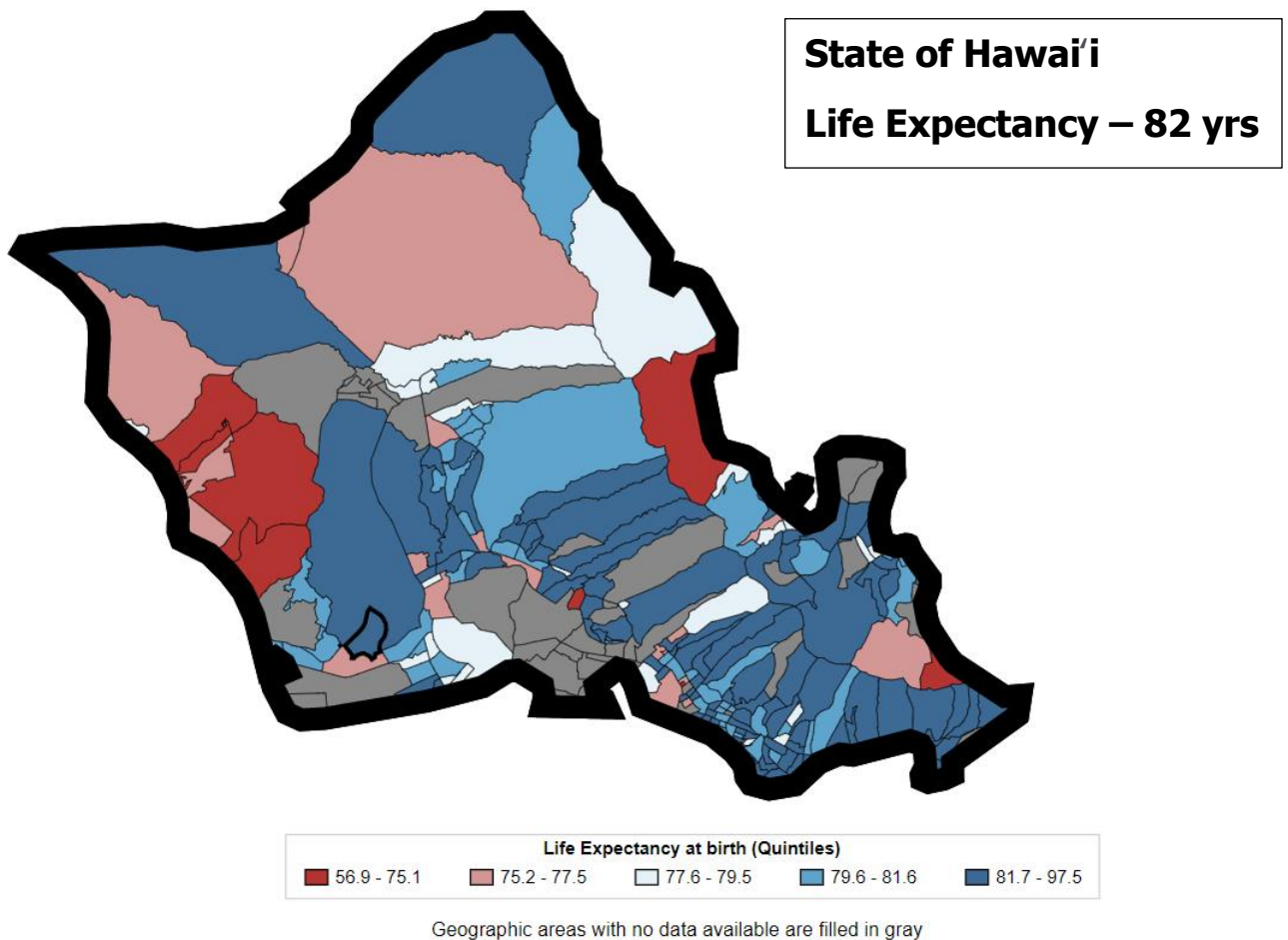
U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy
 Estimates Project - USALEEP

usaleep Neighborhood Life
 Expectancy Project



Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015

LIFE EXPECTANCY* FOR THE ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAI'I



*The Life Expectancy at birth are for U.S. Census Tracts, 2010-2015. These estimates are the result of the collaborative project, “[U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project \(USALEEP\)](#),” between the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

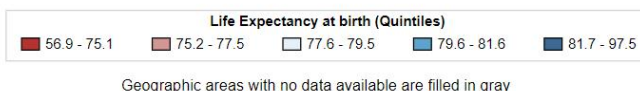
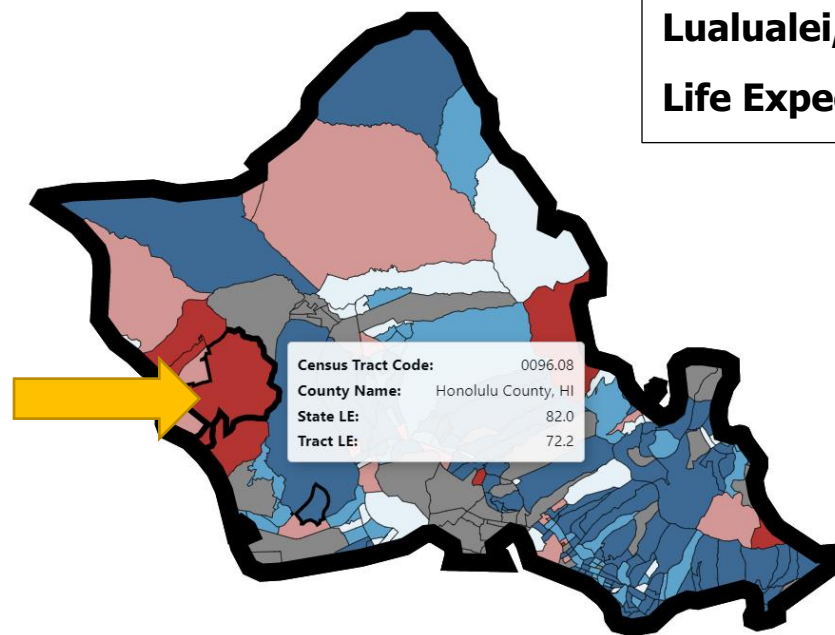
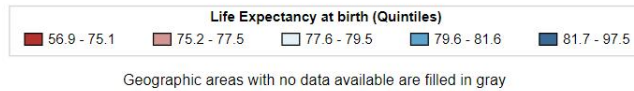
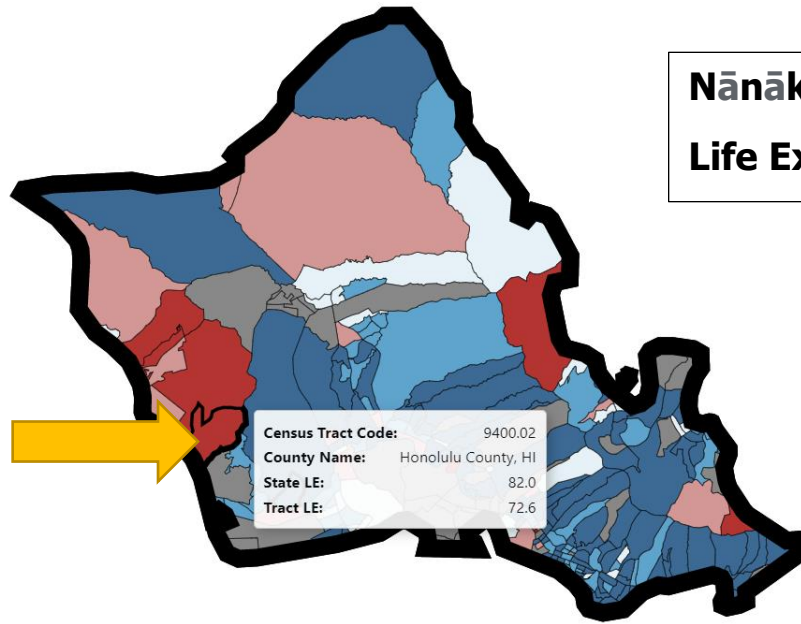
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, March 9). *Life expectancy data viz.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 9, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html>.



NCHS Data Visualization Gallery

...Visualizing the Nation's Health

Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015



SCR-64-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 9:56:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/13/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Werner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and fellow Representatives:

I support finding ways to keep trash out of landfills and for figuring out how for close down our existing landfills. My family and I live and experience the day in and day out of living next to one landfill. No one deserves that. Support this resolution. Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Ed Werner

Nanakuli, Oahu

SCR-64-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 9:58:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/13/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators:

Help keep trash away from landfills. People live next to them through no fault of their own. Find better solutions for handling our trash. Thank you.

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

SCR-64-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:00:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/13/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha law makers:

Please pass this resolution. We need better solutions then throwing trash on the aina. God bless.

Mahalo,

Henrietta Paris

Kapolei, O'ahu