

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER
TO CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR AIR POLLUTANTS EMITTED BY WASTE
INCINERATION FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, waste incineration facilities typically emit large
2 amounts of pollutants into the air every day they operate; and
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4 WHEREAS, although waste incineration facilities are
5 monitored for pollutants, the technology employed is typically
6 dated, and advancements in technology have enabled modern
7 methods to gather much more extensive data to determine, for
8 example, the effects of pollutants on public health; and
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10 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, of twenty-two known pollutants emitted
11 by waste incineration facilities, nine are not monitored at all,
12 including per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances and various toxic
13 metals, nine are monitored just once a year, and only four are
14 monitored continuously; and
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16 WHEREAS, naturally, the levels of emissions of the nine
17 pollutants that are not monitored is unknown; and
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19 WHEREAS, monitoring once a year is inadequate because it
20 may severely underestimate the pollution levels, as shown by the
21 Covanta Delaware Valley waste incinerator in Chester,
22 Pennsylvania, where annual monitoring was replaced with
23 continuous monitoring, which found that hydrochloric acid
24 emissions were sixty-two percent higher than what annual
25 monitoring showed; and
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27 WHEREAS, among the pollutants monitored just once a year in
28 the State are dioxins, which are so toxic that the Environmental
29 Protection Agency has set a limit that is equivalent to thirty
30 grams of dioxin per trillion liters of drinking water, and a
31 recent study found that failure to use continuous monitoring



1 technology at waste incineration facilities underestimates
2 dioxin emissions by 460 to 1,290 times; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
7 and the Chief Energy Officer are requested to continuously
8 monitor air pollutants emitted by waste incineration facilities;
9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
13 each of the counties, Director of Health, and Chief Energy
14 Officer.

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17 OFFERED BY:



