



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Monday, March 25, 2024  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Providing Comments on  
**SCR 77 / SR 63**

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

Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) provides comments on SCR 76 / SR 63, both of which request the Director of Health and the Chief Energy Officer to continuously monitor air pollutants emitted by waste incineration facilities.

HSEO strongly supports the intent of this resolution and recognizes the importance of monitoring air pollutants to protect public health; however, HSEO has neither the in-house expertise nor capacity to monitor for air pollution. While HSEO utilizes the information published by the Department of Health to inform our analysis, planning, and policy recommendations pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes §196-71 and §196-72, HSEO does not monitor for these pollutants.

Therefore, HSEO respectfully requests the state Chief Energy Officer be removed from these resolutions and defers to the Department of Health on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

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March 24, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Hon. Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hon. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Hon. Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: SCR 76/SR 63 requesting DOH and State Energy Office to continuously monitor  
air pollution from incinerators

Hearing: Monday, March 25, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Room 224 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i comprises some 7,500 politically active members of Hawai‘i’s majority political party. We strongly support this proposed resolution, which requests the Department of Health and the State Energy office to continuously monitor air pollution caused by incinerators.

As the proposed Concurrent Resolution and Senate Resolution note, of the twenty-two known pollutants that waste incineration facilities emit, only four are monitored continuously nine are monitored just once per year, the remaining nine, which include polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) and various toxic metals, are not monitored at all. Furthermore, monitoring pollutants once per year severely underestimates pollution levels. For example, the Covanta Delaware Valley waste incinerator in Chester, Pennsylvania, replaced annual monitoring with continuous monitoring and found that hydrochloric acid emissions were 62% percent higher than the figure that annual monitoring would identify.

This is critical with respect to dioxin emissions, which are monitored only once per year, although they are so toxic that the Environmental Protection Agency restricts dioxin levels to a ratio of thirty grams per one trillion liters of drinking water. Moreover, a recent study found that failure to use continuous monitoring technology at waste incineration facilities underestimates dioxin emissions by an alarming 460 to 1,290 times.

We need to move forward as soon as possible to improve our monitoring of air pollution produced by incinerators.



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Accordingly, we believe it is critical for the Legislature to pass this proposed Concurrent Resolution.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we thank you very much in advance for your support of these requests. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.

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Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

**Comments before March 25, 2024**  
**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**& Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**Senate Concurrent Resolution 76**  
**& Senate Resolution 63**

Relating to Incinerator Air Monitoring

**Mike Ewall, Esq.**  
**Founder & Director**  
**Energy Justice Network**  
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**www.EnergyJustice.net**

Aloha Honorable Committee members. Energy Justice Network is a national organization supporting grassroots groups working to transition their communities from polluting and harmful energy and waste management practices to clean energy and zero waste solutions. In Hawai'i, we've been working with residents who first sought our support in 2015. Since mid-2022, we have supported residents in forming the Hawai'i Clean Power Task Force and Kokua na Aina to address numerous energy and waste issues in the state.

We stand in support of the amendment sought by the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, to make these resolutions match the language in HCR 153, recently passed in the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

SCR 76 and SR 63 were unfortunately altered in the legislative drafting process to require that the Department of Health actually conduct the monitoring, without funding allocated for this purpose. The intent was to make the facility owners pay the costs of monitoring their own pollution, as was approved by this joint committee on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the passage of Senate Bill 2101, along with the matching House Bill 2123, approved in the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

Mahalo nui loa for your support for this important matter!

**SR-63**

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 6:13:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/25/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**SR-63**

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 8:31:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/25/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support SCR76 and SR63. Monitoring once a year is inadequate because it may severely underestimate the pollution levels. To protect our health, we must implement efforts toward continuously monitoring air pollutants emitted by waste incineration facilities. The cost to conduct the monitoring should be covered by the incineration facility owners as it is only right that they take responsibility for their own pollution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.