

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE
METHODS USED IN OTHER STATES TO MONITOR AIR POLLUTANTS
EMITTED BY WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, waste incineration facilities typically emit tons
2 of pollutants into the air that we breathe each day that they
3 operate; and

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5 WHEREAS, current technology used to monitor waste
6 incineration facilities for pollutants is dated; and

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8 WHEREAS, advancements in monitoring technology have enabled
9 more effective methods to gather more extensive data to
10 determine the effects of pollutants on public health; and

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12 WHEREAS, of the twenty-two known pollutants that waste
13 incineration facilities emit, only four are monitored
14 continuously nine are monitored just once per year, the
15 remaining nine, which include polyfluorinated substances (PFAS)
16 and various toxic metals, are not monitored at all; and

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18 WHEREAS, monitoring pollutants once per year severely
19 underestimates pollution levels, as demonstrated by the Covanta
20 Delaware Valley waste incinerator in Chester, Pennsylvania,
21 which replaced annual monitoring with continuous monitoring and
22 found that hydrochloric acid emissions were sixty-two percent
23 higher than what annual monitoring reported; and

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25 WHEREAS, dioxin emissions are monitored only once per year,
26 although they are so toxic that the Environmental Protection
27 Agency restricts dioxin levels to a ratio of thirty grams per
28 one trillion liters of drinking water; and

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30 WHEREAS, a recent study found that failure to use
31 continuous monitoring technology at waste incineration



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1 facilities underestimates dioxin emissions 460 to 1,290 times;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, annual monitoring may not provide an accurate
5 representation of pollution levels as the content of municipal
6 solid waste burned at waste incineration facilities comprises
7 variable substances, resulting in variable emissions, especially
8 when taking industrial waste, medical waste, sewage sludge, or
9 demolition waste into account; and

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11 WHEREAS, different states employ different methods to
12 monitor pollutants emitted by waste incineration facilities and
13 the experiences of other states may prove helpful in determining
14 the optimal method for Hawaii; now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Health (Department) is requested to conduct a study of the
20 methods used in other states to monitor air pollutants emitted
21 by waste incineration facilities; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the Department is
24 requested to cover a broad range of monitoring methods from the
25 least extensive to most extensive, and to include the costs of
26 these methods when possible; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be intended for fact-
29 finding and information-gathering purposes; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department submit a report
32 of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later
33 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
34 of 2025; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
38 of Health, and Chief Energy Officer.

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41 OFFERED BY: 

