SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND UNITED STATES MILITARY TO COORDINATE AND ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL DUMPING WITHIN WAIPAHU AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES OF EWA, PEARL CITY, AND AIEA ON OAHU.

WHEREAS, illegal dumping poses significant environmental risks to communities, and proactive measures must be taken to safeguard public health and preserve the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping has long plagued Waipahu, Oahu, particularly the area along the West Loch bike path from Waipahu to Aiea, where shopping carts clutter drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS, Carroll Cox of EnviroWatch compared this eyesore to the aftermath of a bomb, emphasizing the pressing need for action against time multiple illegal dump sites identified in Waipahu; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping is visible to Waipahu Elementary School, Waipahu High School, and other educational centers, posing a threat to the health and well-being of students, and immediate action is imperative to mitigate these risks and ensure a safe learning environment for all; and

WHEREAS, waste disposal in Waipahu and surrounding communities threatens public health, contaminating soil, water sources, and roads, and urgent action is necessary to mitigate risks, protect the environment, and ensure the well-being of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping has created a hazardous environment impacting Waipahu's and surrounding communities' natural habitats and residents, and immediate interventions are essential to mitigate harm, restore ecosystems, and safeguard the health and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping has diminished community pride in cleanliness in Waipahu and surrounding communities, and fostering awareness, education, and community involvement is crucial to promote responsible waste management practices and restore a sense of pride in maintaining a clean environment for all residents; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping in Waipahu and surrounding communities creates eyesores, health hazards, and sets a poor example for future generations, and it is imperative to address this issue through education, enforcement, and community involvement to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the State, City and County of Honolulu, and the United States military are urged to coordinate and address the issue of illegal dumping within Waipahu, Oahu, and the surrounding communities of Ewa, Pearl City, and Aiea; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this measure is intended to bring awareness to the need for change to man-made, polluted areas within Waipahu and surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Governor, Director of Transportation, Director of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and Director of the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu.