



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'ŌIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR0104/SR0085  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO FORM A WORKING GROUP ON SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 31, 2025; 1:00 PM; Conference Room 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This resolution 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 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments on this resolution.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division (EMD) provides the  
6 following testimony on behalf of the Department. This resolution suggests that the Department  
7 convene a working group to evaluate different waste management technologies to manage  
8 waste that cannot typically be recycled or composted, and relies on landfills for disposal.

9 We agree there is benefit in investigating alternative technologies for managing solid  
10 waste that cannot be recycled and would otherwise be landfilled. Given increasing landfill siting  
11 restrictions, technologies and processes that may have been deemed cost prohibitive during  
12 past plan development may be more tenable and a detailed listing of these options with  
13 associated costs may prove beneficial. Also, since solid waste disposal in most counties is a  
14 service that, for the most part, does not have direct costs to residential users, having estimated

costs for these alternative options, along with the increased prohibitions on landfill siting, can assist counties to justify the charging of fees, similar to electric and water utilities.

The Department does not have the resources to convene a working group, as our limited staff are currently committed to conduct four (4) studies that include a statewide waste characterization study and two deposit beverage container rate studies in the next two (2) years. Furthermore, based on remaining active measures, we may be required to concurrently conduct or participate in two (2) additional working groups. Therefore, in lieu of the listed working group, we believe it would be more productive for us to coordinate with the counties' solid waste divisions, who are the county experts and who are responsible to provide waste management to their residents, to discuss the potential alternative options. Together, we can produce a list of alternative technologies, with details on the type of wastes that can be managed by the technologies and associated capital and operating cost estimates for each. We will consult with subject matter experts on the specific technologies, including users of the technologies, as needed. Following the creation of the list, the counties can then further investigate a method(s) that is appropriate for their specific solid waste management needs and incorporate this option(s) into their next cycle of their integrated solid waste plan development, as required by Section 342G-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Section 342G-21, HRS, requires each county to develop an integrated solid waste plan ("plan") which is updated every 10 years. Prior to preparing a plan, each county is required to form an advisory committee appointed by the mayor that may be comprised of representatives from citizen organizations, industry, private solid waste industry operating in the county, including the recycling industry, and others deemed appropriate by the mayor. Inclusive of other requirements, the plan provides for the maximum feasible development and implementation of source reduction, recycling, and bioconversion programs, and demonstrates a feasible schedule, funding source, and amount for doing so. The plan is reviewed by the

1 advisory committee as well as by the Department. In addition, the plan is made available for  
2 public comment for no less than 60 days with at least one public hearing on the proposed plan.

3 The contents of the County's plan shall include, but not be limited to, recycling and  
4 bioconversion, source reduction, waste stream assessment, energy balance and landfill and  
5 incineration. (See: HRS 342G-25). Therefore, there is already a process in place that requires  
6 investigation of available technologies for solid waste management.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

8 **Offered Amendments:** We offer the following amendments, replacing page 2 line 4 through  
9 page 3 line 2 to read:

10 "BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health and  
12 the solid waste or refuse divisions of the respective counties develop a list of alternative  
13 technologies to address solid waste management of wastes that cannot typically be recycled or  
14 composted and rely on landfills for disposal; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit this list,  
16 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
17 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the list will include alternative technologies or methods to  
19 landfilling waste and will include at a minimum details on the processes, primary equipment,  
20 capital costs, and operating costs; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to  
22 the Governor, Director of Health, and Mayor of each county."

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
And Members  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: SCR 104 / SR 85: Requesting the Department of Health to Form a Working Group on Solid Waste Management

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 104, Senate Resolution (SR) 85, which requests the Department of Health (DOH) to form a working group on solid waste management.

The BWS appreciates including our agency to be a part of this working group. We look forward to participating in the effort to examine potential solutions to Hawaii'i's landfill problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 104, SR 85.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 31, 2025

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura  
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Mike Gabbard  
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Mihoko Ito/ C. Mike Kido/ Ryan Toyomura

RE: **SCR 104 / SR 85 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
FORM A WORKING GROUP ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.**

**Hearing Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room: 225**

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Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Joint Committees:

We submit these **comments** on SCR 10 and SR 85 on behalf of Reworld, the operator of HPOWER. The HPOWER facility is an integral part of Oahu's solid waste management plan and does more than keep trash out of landfills. It produces enough energy to power 34,000 homes or charge 86,000 electric vehicles per year. It provides critical, base load renewable energy that complements intermittent renewable energy sources like wind and solar, helping Hawaii in its efforts to end its dependency on climate-damaging fossil fuels.

Reworld does not oppose having the Department of Health review the State's solid waste management plan. HPOWER and waste-to-energy have played an important role in the island of Oahu's management of waste.

However, Reworld would respectfully request that the "whereas" clauses referencing H-POWER (page 1, lines 28-30) be amended to eliminate the reference to waste-to-energy as unpopular and toxic. These inflammatory descriptions are unnecessary and do not contribute to the goal of having a comprehensive discussion on the topic of solid waste management policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these resolutions.

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:02:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**Comments before  
March 31, 2025  
Senate Joint Committees on Health and Human  
Services and Agriculture and Environment**

**IN SUPPORT OF  
Senate Concurrent Resolution 104 and  
Senate Resolution 85**

Relating to Solid Waste Working Group

**Mike Ewall, Esq.  
Founder & Director  
Energy Justice Network  
215-436-9511  
mike@energyjustice.net  
[www.EnergyJustice.net](http://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 Kōkua nā 'Āina to address numerous energy and waste issues in the state.

**We support these resolutions and ask that they be strengthened with these amendments:**

- 1) Remove the inappropriate promotion of specific technologies, plasma arc gasification and pyrolysis, by deleting lines 32 to 35 on page 1 of SR 85 and the same language in SB 104.
- 2) Add to the composition of the working group:
  - 7) Zero Waste USA; and
  - 8) A Hawaii-based environmental non-profit organization with at least five years of experience advocating for Zero Waste priorities in the state, who is requested to be invited by the Governor upon an open application process; and
  - 9) The reuse industry, who is requested to be invited by the Governor; and
  - 10) An expert in deconstruction, who is requested to be invited by the Governor; and
  - 11) An expert in unit-based pricing, who is requested to be invited by the Governor; and
  - 12) A landfill expert with a specialization in landfill liner leakage, who is requested to be invited by the Governor; and
  - 13) A representative of the military who can address the potential use of military land for a new landfill on O'ahu, who is requested to be invited by the Governor.

On #10, we recommend someone from Build Reuse ([www.buildreuse.org](http://www.buildreuse.org)), the national association for building material reuse and deconstruction.

On #11, we recommend someone from Waste Zero ([www.wastezero.com](http://www.wastezero.com)) or SERA, Inc. ([www.serainc.com](http://www.serainc.com)), who are national experts in unit-based pricing.

On #12, we recommend consultant G. Fred Lee ([www.gfredlee.com](http://www.gfredlee.com)), who is a national expert consulting on the topic for decades.

- 3) Make the study scope more specific by charging the working group with obtaining answers to the following:
- a. the annual operations and maintenance costs and the costs of any capital improvements of each of the three H-POWER units over the past decade and projected over the next decade,
  - b. the expected costs for each of the three H-POWER units of compliance with new federal regulations for Large Municipal Waste Combustors assuming that the January 2024 draft regulations are finalized in December 2025 as drafted,
  - c. the cost of the “put-or-pay” fees and any other penalties for shortfalls in waste provided or energy produced over the past decade and projected over the remaining lifetime of the operating contract,
  - d. the amount of waste reduction needed to close the two old burners and rely solely on the third,
  - e. the cost of implementing unit-based pricing (paying per bag for trash disposal) and other zero waste programs to accomplish the required amount of waste reduction on O’ahu produce no more waste than the third unit at H-POWER can process,
  - f. the cost of building a new landfill,
  - g. the cost of building a new incinerator to replace the two old burners once they retire, assuming that the January 2024 draft regulations for Large Municipal Waste Combustors are adopted.



**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 12:37:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice chair Richards , Chair San Buenaventura , Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RoberstEmery, as Co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we strongly support SCR104/SR85. Please support these resolutions with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience. Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O'ahu.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery  
Green Party of Hawai'i  
Paauilo

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:09:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support with Senator Gabbard's ammendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to include 6 people with expertise in Zero Waste. Suggest the addition of a group member representing the military as a liaison for developing a new landfill on Oahu.

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:55:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Testifying for Zero Waste Kauai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution, including Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience. In addition, please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 30, 2025

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

Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment  
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Hon. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

**Subject:** **SCR104/SR85** Relating to a Establishment of a Solid Waste Working Group

**Hearing:** Monday, March 31, 2025, 1:00 a.m. Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**Position:** **Support with Amendments**

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports SCR 104/ SR 85, with amendments**. These resolutions seek to have the Department of Health convene a working group to examine alternatives relating to a new landfill for Oahu and report on solid waste management alternatives that protect the environment. These alternatives include focus on the groundwater, earth, and air, and existing alternatives currently in use.

We understand that a number of amendments are likely to be proposed to these Resolutions, and we join in supporting those amendments. As we understand them, they comprise the following:

1. Delete reference to any particular technology to be studied. Accordingly, delete reference to Plasma Arc Gasification (PAG) and pyrolysis, by deleting lines 32 to 34 on page 1.
2. Add to the composition of the working group, suggesting representatives from the following organizations, industries, and specialties, all of whom would be requested to be invited by the Governor:
  - a. Zero Waste USA
  - b. A Hawai'i-based environmental non-profit advocating for Zero Waste priorities;
  - c. The reuse industry, who is requested to be invited by the Governor
  - d. The deconstruction industry;
  - e. A landfill expert with a specialization in landfill-liner leakage;

f. An expert in unit-based pricing;

3. Other changes, for substance and/or for more accurate wording:

a. Page 1, line 1. Change the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill location to Kapolei, rather than Nanakuli;

b. Page 1, line 24.: Note that a new landfill on Oahu is inherently problematic and is not necessarily the best way our community can reduce and handle the solid waste produced by our linear extract, package, and throw-away economy;

c. Page 1, line 28. Change to: H-POWER, the State's only trash incinerator, is also unpopular emits toxic air pollutants and creates toxic ash residues that must be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner;

d. Page 2, line 35. Change to: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to include information on materials management policies and programs that reduce solid waste and protect the environment, which includes the groundwater, earth, and air.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick and Melodie Aduja  
Co-Chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com) [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com)

**LATE**

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:22:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hunt	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution WITH Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience.

Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu.

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:13:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and expansion of the working group with the six people who have no waste and landfill leakage experience. Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O'ahu.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 1:46:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Solid Waste Working Group resolution (SCR 104 / SR 85)

Please support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience. Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu.

Fred Hofer

Hilo



**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 7:12:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

I support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience.

Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu.

Mahalo nui loa,

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:58:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience. Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu. Which I think is a good way to have a talking point relationship with the military. N

Mahalo

Tamra Hayden

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:50:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies.

Please also expand the Solid Waste Management Working Group with:

- 6 people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience; and
- a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O'ahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SCR104,  
Michele Mitsumori

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:43:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution with Senator Gabbard's amendments to remove recommendations of specific technologies and to expand it with the six people with zero waste and landfill leakage experience. Please also add a representative of the military who can provide insights into potential use of military land for a new landfill on O‘ahu.

**LATE**

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 7:33:09 AM  
Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tinamarie Cura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimonial in Support of Creating a Solid Waste Mangement Working Group:

I strongly support the establishment of a working group focused on solid waste management, with a particular emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling. Effective waste management is essential for protecting our environment, conserving resources, and promoting sustainable practices within our communities.

A dedicated working group would bring together key stakeholders, including local government agencies, businesses, environmental organization, and community members. By collaborating we can develop actionable strategies to minimize waste, encourage responsible consumption and expanding recycling and reuse programs.

Focusing on waste reduction at the source, promoting compsting initiatives and supporting circular economy practices will significantly decrease the amount of material sent to landfills. Additionally, educational outreach and community engagement are critical to building a culture of sustainability.

By forming this working group, we have an opportunity to create innovative solutions, reduce our environmental footprint and lead the way in responsible waste management. i urge decision-makers to support this initiative for the benefit of our environment and future generations. It's not their responsibility to clean up our mess.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tinamarie Cura

**LATE**

**SR-85**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 1:50:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/31/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Alternative methods of solid waste disposal must be researched. Oahu is a small island with a finite amount of land. Solutions should be examined that will protect air quality, water quality and minimize the pollution of the land.

Please support this resolution.