
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE, TO CONVENE
A WORKING GROUP ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the permit for the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary
2 Landfill in Kapolei on Oahu expires in 2028; and
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4 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu (City) has not
5 identified any sites for a new landfill that the Honolulu Board
6 of Water Supply finds acceptable because the sites identified
7 are located above aquifers and therefore development of a new
8 landfill there has the potential to contaminate ground water;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the City claims that the legally available and
12 feasible options for a new landfill are located above aquifers
13 and lands with soils classified by the Land Study Bureau's
14 detailed land classification as overall (master) productivity
15 rating class A or B; and
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17 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense holds that
18 federal lands controlled by the military are not available for
19 landfill use under federal rules; and
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21 WHEREAS, if no new landfill site is identified, the City
22 will be forced to pursue a legally prohibited expansion of the
23 Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill; and
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25 WHEREAS, a new landfill on Oahu is inherently problematic
26 and is not necessarily the best way that communities in the
27 State can reduce and handle the solid waste produced by their
28 linear extract, package, and throw-away economy; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
32 that the Governor, or the Governor's designee, is requested to
33 convene a Solid Waste Management Working Group; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solid Waste Management
2 Working Group is requested to comprise the following:

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- 4 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
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- 6 (2) A representative from the Department of Environmental
7 Services of the City and County of Honolulu;
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- 9 (3) A representative from each county, as designated by
10 the mayor of that county;
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- 12 (4) A representative from the Honolulu Board of Water
13 Supply;
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- 15 (5) A representative from the recycling industry, who is
16 requested to be invited by the Governor;
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- 18 (6) A representative from the composting industry, who is
19 requested to be invited by the Governor;
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- 21 (7) A representative from the reuse industry, who is
22 requested to be invited by the Governor;
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- 24 (8) A representative from the deconstruction industry, who
25 is requested to be invited by the Governor;
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- 27 (9) A representative from Zero Waste USA, who is requested
28 to be invited by the Governor;
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- 30 (10) A representative from a Hawaii-based environmental
31 nonprofit organization advocating for zero waste
32 priorities, who is requested to be invited by the
33 Governor;
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- 35 (11) A landfill expert with specialization in landfill
36 liner leakage, who is requested to be invited by the
37 Governor;
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- 39 (12) An expert in unit-based pricing, who is requested to
40 be invited by the Governor; and
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1 (13) A representative from the United States Armed Forces,
2 who is requested to be invited by the Governor; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, or the Governor's
5 designee, is requested to convene the initial meeting for the
6 Solid Waste Management Working Group; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solid Waste Management
9 Working Group is requested to elect a chair from among its
10 members at the initial meeting of the working group, who is in
11 turn requested to convene subsequent meetings for the working
12 group; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solid Waste Management
15 Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings
16 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
18 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
21 include:
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23 (1) Information on materials management policies and
24 programs that reduce solid waste and protect the
25 environment, which includes the groundwater, earth,
26 and air; and
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28 (2) A list of alternative technologies to address solid
29 waste management of waste that cannot typically be
30 recycled or composted; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, who is in turn
34 requested to transmit a copy to each stakeholder invited to
35 participate in the Solid Waste Management Working Group;
36 Director of Health; Mayor of each county; and Manager and Chief
37 Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

