
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CARRY OUT WIDESPREAD SOIL TESTING IN LAHAINA AND TO DEVELOP A SOIL REMEDIATION PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, in August 2023, Lahaina, on the island of Maui,
2 experienced the fifth deadliest wildfire in United States
3 history; and
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5 WHEREAS, more than two thousand two hundred structures were
6 damaged or destroyed in Lahaina and West Maui, eighty-six
7 percent of which were residences; and
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9 WHEREAS, high-intensity wildfires such as the wildfire
10 experienced in Lahaina cause physical, chemical, and biological
11 changes to the surrounding soil; and
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13 WHEREAS, burned or melted building materials, furniture,
14 plastics, and consumer electronics produce toxic substances that
15 can also contaminate soil; and
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17 WHEREAS, soil contamination caused by the August 2023 Maui
18 wildfire may threaten human health, groundwater quality, ocean
19 ecosystems, and food production; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
23 that the Department of Health is requested to:
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25 (1) Sample and test the soil at numerous burn sites in
26 Lahaina for toxins and contaminants;
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28 (2) Develop a soil remediation plan for areas of Lahaina
29 where soil contamination threatens human health,
30 groundwater quality, ocean ecosystems, or food
31 production;
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33 (3) Assess the feasibility of using available technologies
34 to separate clean soil from ash and toxins; and



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2 (4) Submit a report of the Department's findings and
3 recommendations, including the expected costs and
4 estimated timeline for any needed soil remediation
5 projects, and any proposed legislation, to the
6 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
7 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
10 requested to seek funding for the development of the
11 comprehensive soil remediation plan; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Mayor of
15 the County of Maui.

