
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT AN ODOR
MITIGATION PLAN FOR ITS FACILITY IN HAWAII KAI.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii-American Water Company (HAWC) is a wholly-
2 owned subsidiary of American Water Works Company, Inc., the
3 largest and most geographically diverse provider of water
4 services in North America, and provides wastewater service to
5 nearly thirty-five thousand people in Hawaii Kai and along the
6 Kona Coast of the Big Island; and
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8 WHEREAS, HAWC, a regulated public utility, owns and
9 operates East Honolulu Wastewater Treatment Plant (Treatment
10 Plant) in Hawaii Kai on Oahu; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board has received
13 numerous complaints regarding excessive, offensive odor
14 emissions emanating from the Treatment Plant; and
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16 WHEREAS, these odors have contributed to a deteriorating
17 standard in the quality of life for both residents of and
18 visitors to Hawaii Kai; and
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20 WHEREAS, the offensive odor is the result of hydrogen
21 sulfide emissions and is most noticeable during peak periods of
22 wastewater flow, in the early morning and evening hours; and
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24 WHEREAS, hydrogen sulfide is linked to several health
25 issues, including eye irritation, respiratory difficulties,
26 vomiting, and nausea; and
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28 WHEREAS, the stretch of Kalaniana'ole Highway from Hanauma
29 Bay to Makapuu, which includes several scenic lookout points, is
30 one of the most pristine drives on Oahu, where residents and
31 visitors alike enjoy views of Hawaii's flora and fauna, but is
32 often tainted by the offensive odors from the Treatment Plant;
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Constitution affirms in Article XI,
2 Section 1, that "[a]ll public natural resources are held in
3 trust by the State for the benefit of the people", and therefore
4 the State is mandated to "conserve and protect Hawaii's natural
5 beauty"; and

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7 WHEREAS, HAWC informed the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board
8 and community that while it would not be possible to eliminate
9 all odors entirely, the odor problem can be managed by chemical
10 and other means; and

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12 WHEREAS, there is no government supervision or enforcement
13 of odor mitigation procedures, and it is not known what steps,
14 if any, have been taken at the Treatment Plant to ameliorate the
15 problem; and

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17 WHEREAS, studies have been conducted examining the issue of
18 odor emission from wastewater treatment plants with recommended
19 odor mitigation solutions, the most recent completed in 2006;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, while representatives of HAWC have stated that
23 they have implemented some of the recommendations of the 2006
24 study, they refuse to release the content of the study and the
25 specific steps they have taken to minimize offensive odor
26 emissions; and

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28 WHEREAS, treatment plants in other areas, including the
29 Orange County Sanitation District in Huntington Beach and
30 Fountain Valley, California which is the third largest treatment
31 facility west of the Mississippi River with more than fifty
32 times the flow capacity of the Treatment Plant, have residential
33 developments immediately adjacent to their facilities and far
34 fewer complaints of offensive odors; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii-American Water
39 Company is requested to develop an odor mitigation plan for the
40 East Honolulu Wastewater Treatment Plant, identifying
41 improvements it will take to mitigate offensive odor emissions,
42 including a timeline for implementation, by no later than
43 September 2009; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii-American Water
2 Company is requested to present the completed plan to the
3 Legislature, the Honolulu City Council, the Public Utilities
4 Commission, the Department of Health, and the Hawaii Kai
5 Neighborhood Board no later than September 30, 2009; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, thereafter, the Hawaii-
8 American Water Company is requested to self-monitor its progress
9 of implementing the odor mitigation measures described in its
10 plan and to submit monthly written progress reports to the
11 Honolulu City Council, the Director of Health, the Chairperson
12 of the Public Utilities Commission, and the Chairperson of the
13 Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission
16 is requested to review the rates charged by the Hawaii-American
17 Water Company and determine whether these charges are sufficient
18 to adequately upgrade its facilities, including odor mitigation
19 measures, and if so, whether those odor mitigation measures have
20 been implemented; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Honolulu City
24 Council, the Director of Health, the Chairperson of the Public
25 Utilities Commission, the Chairperson of the Hawaii Kai
26 Neighborhood Board, and the President of the Hawaii-American
27 Water Company.