
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A
LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE HEALTH EFFECTS FROM LONG TERM
EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS.

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Health is to
2 protect and improve the health and environment for all people in
3 Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Department of Health is to
6 promote health and well-being; and
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8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that working with hazardous
9 waste materials poses inherent risks to the health and safety of
10 the people who handle them; and
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12 WHEREAS, specifically, there are certain chemical,
13 biological, and accidental hazards associated with handling
14 hazardous waste materials; and
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16 WHEREAS, some of these chemical, biological, and accidental
17 hazards include exposure to known pesticides, bacteria, and
18 carcinogens that may cause cancer if they are not treated
19 properly; exposure to dust, fungi, and endotoxins that may lead
20 to lung cancer among workers exposed to organic dust; and
21 exposure to broken glass and used syringes that may lead to the
22 transfer of bloodborne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency
23 Virus, Hepatitis B Virus, and Hepatitis C Virus; and
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25 WHEREAS, the employees who collect and treat hazardous
26 waste materials on a daily basis could suffer adverse health
27 effects; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference



H.C.R. NO. 188

1 Bureau is requested to conduct a literature review of the health
2 effects from long term exposure to hazardous waste materials;
3 and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the literature
6 review, the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to review
7 materials related to the appropriate upgrades and improvements
8 that could be made to existing wastewater treatment plants and
9 refuse collection systems to ensure safe and healthy working
10 conditions for current and future employees and the appropriate
11 actions that could be taken to compensate current and past
12 employees who suffer from various health problems as a direct
13 result of long term exposure to hazardous waste materials; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
16 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
18 the 2010 Regular Session; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
22 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY: _____

Kal Rhode

MAR 17 2009

