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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ASSURE THAT ANY  
SUBSTANTIAL LAND DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER, OCCURRING BY  
INJECTION WELL OR OTHER MEANS, IS IN ALL CASES, ADEQUATELY  
REVIEWED AND PERMITTED.

1           WHEREAS, section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act charges  
2 the Department of Health with responsibility for certifying that  
3 proposed discharges resulting from an activity will not violate  
4 applicable water quality standards; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Department of Health administers the  
7 underground injection control program to regulate the disposal  
8 of wastewater under chapter 11-23 of the Hawaii Administrative  
9 Rules; and

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11           WHEREAS, the Department of Health defines a "well" as a  
12 "bored, drilled or driven shaft, or a dug hole, whose depth is  
13 greater than its widest surface dimension"; and

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15           WHEREAS, current wastewater treatment plant methods of  
16 wastewater disposal are not limited to underground injection  
17 wells; and

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19           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, other methods for wastewater treatment  
20 plant disposal include seepage ponds, land discharge, seepage  
21 pits, and other means; and

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23           WHEREAS, wastewater treatment plants using different  
24 discharge methods have resulted, in some cases, in plumes of  
25 unpermitted and unregulated wastewater discharge into the  
26 environment, for example, from the Kealakehe wastewater  
27 treatment plant; now, therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
4 Health is requested to assure that any land discharge of  
5 domestic wastewater over 1,000 gallons per day, occurring by  
6 injection well, seepage ponds, or seepage pits is, in all cases,  
7 adequately reviewed and permitted; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
10 requested to adopt rules, pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
11 Statutes, to include seepage ponds and seepage pits in the  
12 review and permit process, or to consider prohibiting seepage  
13 ponds and seepage pits altogether; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
17 and the Chief of the Environmental Management Division.

