
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS BY THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SEAWATER.

1 WHEREAS, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
2 (NELHA) administers Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park,
3 the world's premier energy and ocean technology park, (Park) on
4 870 acres in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, which is the world's only
5 facility that brings ashore high quality, pristine supplies of
6 both warm surface and cold deep seawater twenty-four hours a
7 day, allowing for various tests to take place and realizing the
8 economic potentials from the dual temperature seawater delivery
9 system and high solar insolation; and

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11 WHEREAS, NELHA has completed three environmental impact
12 statements regarding the disposal of seawater used within the
13 Park that conclude that the disposal of the seawater in surface
14 trenches is most desirable and lay out a number of safeguards to
15 ensure that environmental impact is minimized; and

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17 WHEREAS, Chapter 11, Hawaii Administrative Rules, governing
18 wastewater disposal, classifies NELHA's waste seawater as non-
19 domestic wastewater and specifies that its treatment and
20 disposal is reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Director of
21 Health; and

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23 WHEREAS, NELHA has previously directed its tenants to seek
24 guidance from the Department of Health with respect to waste
25 seawater treatment, disposal requirements, and defining
26 applicable standards; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is considering requiring
29 NELHA businesses to transition from subsurface trenches to
30 underground injection well methods of disposal that could impose



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1 significant technological and economic hurdles for businesses at
2 NELHA; and

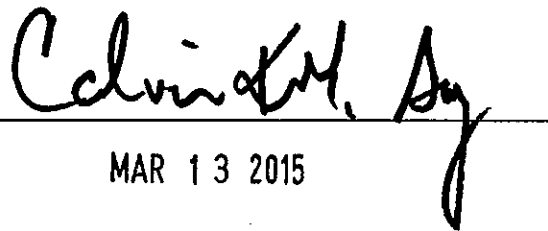
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4 WHEREAS, NELHA proposes to work with the Department of
5 Health, various other State entities, and stakeholders to define
6 a set of guidelines and rules within the framework of Chapter
7 11, similar to current rules for livestock waste management,
8 which specifically address the means, methods, and parameters
9 associated with treatment and disposal of seawater in all of the
10 applications for which it is used; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2015, that the Legislature strongly supports the
15 efforts by NELHA and the Department of Health to work together
16 to develop guidelines for the disposal of seawater; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
20 Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, and Director of
21 Health.

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OFFERED BY:


MAR 13 2015

