REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMY & HEALTH

Voting Members:
Matt Weyer, Chair; Radiant Cordero, Vice-Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Augie Tulba, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
January 14, 2025

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health, which considered Resolution 25-3 entitled:

"RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY POLICY, AS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 03-09, FD1, ADOPTED ON APRIL 16, 2003, THAT MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED IN PROXIMITY TO THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND DRINKING WATER SOURCES,"

introduced on January 2, 2025, reports as follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to reaffirm the City policy, as set forth in Resolution 03-09, FD1, adopted on April 16, 2003, that municipal sold waste landfills should not be located in proximity to any of the City's underground drinking water sources.

The Managing Director Designate offered comments and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

The Director Designate of the Department of Environmental Services offered comments and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

The Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply testified in support of the resolution and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

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Your Committee received oral and written public testimony in support of the resolution.

Your Committee has prepared a CD1 version of the Resolution, which makes the following amendments as discussed in the committee:

A. Adds a new fourth WHEREAS clause that reflects the constraints placed upon the City Administration when siting a new landfill following the enactment of Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee on Housing, Sustainability, Economy & Health is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 25-3, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 25-3, CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Tulba, Tupola, Weyer – 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON JAN 29 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-3, CD1

RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE CITY POLICY, AS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 03-09, FD1, ADOPTED ON APRIL 16, 2003, THAT MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS SHOULD NOT BE LOCATED IN PROXIMITY TO THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND DRINKING WATER SOURCES.

WHEREAS, in 2003, the City Council ("Council") adopted Resolution 03-09, FD1, which established a policy for the City and County of Honolulu ("City") that municipal solid waste landfills should not be located anywhere in proximity of the Hawai'i State Department of Health's Underground Injection Control line, within the City Board of Water Supply's groundwater protection zone, or over any underground drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, at the time, the Council was concerned that no landfill technology could guarantee that hazardous or harmful substances from a municipal solid waste landfill placed over the City's aquifer would not, over the long term, enter the City's underground drinking water sources and create a risk to the public health and welfare of the City's residents; and

WHEREAS, while there have been technological advances in landfill safety since 2003, the concerns expressed then remain largely relevant today, as even the best modern liner and leachate collection systems still naturally deteriorate over time; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, which prohibits locating a waste disposal facility in a conservation district, and within 0.5 mile of residences, schools, and hospitals, thereby limiting the areas on O'ahu in which a landfill could be sited; and

WHEREAS, the catastrophic Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility leak in 2021 demonstrated the potential for contaminating the island's drinking water aquifer system and highlighted the importance of preventing foreseeable similar events in the future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it reaffirms the City policy, as set forth in Resolution 03-09, FD1, adopted on April 16, 2003, that municipal solid waste landfills should not be located in proximity to any of the City's underground drinking water sources; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **25-3, CD1**

RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council strongly opposes any landfill being established in proximity to any of the City's underground drinking water sources and reaffirms its commitment to protecting, preserving, and safeguarding Hawai'i's life-giving resources for its citizens and future generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its intent to take any measures that it deems appropriate to oppose and prevent a landfill from being established in proximity to any of the City's underground drinking water sources; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply, the Director of the Department of Environmental Services, and the Hawai'i State Director of Health.

INTRODUCED BY:

Matt Weyer

Radiant Cordero

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

January 2, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
City Policy; Reaffirming; Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; Landfill; Underground Drinking Water Sources; Aquifer; Resolution 03-09, FD1; Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.