

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING AN END LANDFILLS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY, COSTS, AND IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS FOR ELIMINATING LANDFILL DEPENDENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") relies on landfill disposal as a primary component of its integrated solid waste management system; and

WHEREAS, landfill capacity on O'ahu is finite, and the continued reliance on landfills presents significant long-term environmental, land-use, public health, climate, and fiscal challenges for the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, although the City utilizes waste-to-energy, recycling, and diversion strategies, including operations at H-POWER, a substantial portion of the City's municipal solid waste continues to be disposed of in landfills; and

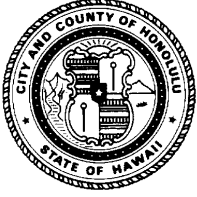
WHEREAS, the closure, expansion, or siting of landfills involves complex regulatory, environmental, and community considerations, underscoring the need for long-term planning beyond existing landfill capacity timelines; and

WHEREAS, emerging and existing waste reduction, recycling, diversion, and conversion technologies may provide opportunities to significantly reduce or eliminate landfill dependency, but require rigorous evaluations of feasibility, costs, environmental impacts, regulatory compliance, labor impacts, and operational reliability; and

WHEREAS, transitioning away from landfill dependency would require coordinated efforts among City departments, private industry, labor organizations, the recycling and energy sectors, and State of Hawai'i ("State") and federal policymakers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") finds that a structured, transparent, and multidisciplinary evaluation is necessary to responsibly assess pathways toward ending landfill dependency while maintaining public health, environmental protection, fiscal responsibility, and workforce stability; and

WHEREAS, under Council Rule 9A, the Council may, by adoption of a resolution, establish advisory committees to assist the Council in the resolution or study of issues; now, therefore,

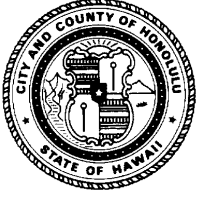


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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that an End Landfills Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby established to evaluate the feasibility, costs, risks, and implementation pathways for eliminating landfill dependency in the City and County of Honolulu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be composed of, but is not limited to, the following members who will be appointed by the Council unless otherwise indicated below:

1. The Council Chair, or the Chair's designee, who shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force unless otherwise designated by the Council;
2. A representative from the Mayor's Office;
3. The Director of the Department of Environmental Services, or the Director's designee;
4. A representative from Reworld Honolulu, LLC (formerly known as Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture, LLC) with professional knowledge of the operations at H-POWER;
5. A representative from the metal recycling sector;
6. A representative from the plastic recycling sector;
7. A representative from the energy recycling or conversion sector;
8. A representative from the oil or energy sector with professional knowledge of conversion technologies or supporting infrastructure;
9. A representative from United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO;
10. A member of the Hawai'i State Legislature, to be appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate; and
11. Any additional subject-matter expert or stakeholder deemed necessary by the Council to fulfill the purpose of the Task Force; and



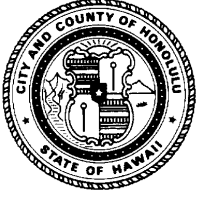
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall:

1. Evaluate the feasibility and practical realities of ending landfill dependency, including current conditions, landfill capacity timelines, operational constraints, and regulatory limitations;
2. Analyze the costs, benefits, risks, and environmental impacts associated with technologies and strategies intended to reduce or eliminate landfill reliance;
3. Assess alternative waste processing, recycling, diversion, and conversion strategies, including related infrastructure requirements, workforce impacts, market readiness issues, and the long-term operational viability of such strategies;
4. Identify any policy, infrastructure, or operational or regulatory actions required to transition away from landfill dependency, including recommended sequencing of actions;
5. Develop an estimated timeframe and phased transition plan with key milestones and decision points;
6. Identify areas requiring coordination with State of Hawai'i agencies, the Hawai'i State Legislature, and other federal partners;
7. Identify potential risks, uncertainties, and barriers to implementation, including legal, financial, technological, and community impacts; and
8. Submit a final written report to the Council within 365 days of the adoption of this resolution detailing the Task Force's findings, options considered, and recommendations, including areas of consensus and disagreement, if any; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall comply with applicable open meetings and public transparency requirements, and will be supported administratively by the Council unless otherwise directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force members shall serve without compensation and shall not expend or encumber any appropriated funds unless expressly authorized by the Council; and



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall remain in effect until the submission of its final report, unless extended or dissolved by the Council; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Council Chair; the Mayor; the Managing Director; the Director of the Department of Environmental Services; the Facility Manager of Reworld Honolulu, LLC; the State Director of United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO; the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives; and the President of the Hawai'i State Senate.

INTRODUCED BY:

A. Fyola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 12 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

End Landfills Task Force; Council Advisory Committee; Feasibility Study; Transition Plan; Landfill; Landfill Dependency; City Council ("CCL"); Office of the Mayor ("MAY"); Department of Environmental Services ("ENV"); ENV Director; Report

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