

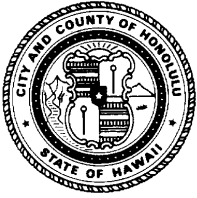
## **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE DRAFT:**

### **Resolution 26-7 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.**

**The PROPOSED CD1** makes the following amendments:

- A. Adds a new fourth WHEREAS clause to note that the pending closure of the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill represents a key planning driver and near-term inflection point for the City.
- B. In the first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause, provides for four additional members to serve on the End Landfills Task Force by:
  - 1. Adding (i) a representative from the Board of Water Supply; (ii) a representative from the State of Hawai'i Department of Health; and (iii) a representative from the Office of the Governor; and
  - 2. Allowing both the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives and the President of the Hawai'i State Senate to each appoint one member (instead of providing for just one member from the Hawai'i State Legislature, to be appointed jointly by the Speaker and the President).
- C. In the second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause:
  - 1. Clarifies that the End Landfills Task Force shall also analyze the feasibility and workforce impacts associated with technologies and strategies intended to reduce or eliminate landfill reliance, and lists examples of technologies and strategies that the End Landfills Task Force may consider; and
  - 2. Amends the final written report submission date from "365 days" to "540 days."
- D. Adds a new third BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause that requires the End Landfills Task Force to coordinate its activities with the temporary Solid Waste Management Working Group in the Office of the Governor that is proposed to be established pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2485, Regular Session of 2026, as may be amended, or any similar working group or task force so authorized or requested by the Hawai'i State Legislature during the Regular Session of 2026 ("Working Group"), and any other relevant State of Hawai'i agencies ("Relevant State Agencies");

- E. Adds a new fourth BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause that, with regard to the Working Group or similar working group or task force:
  - 1. Encourages the End Landfills Task Force to share its data and analyses; participate in joint informational meetings or briefings where appropriate; align its timelines and analytical frameworks when feasible; and avoid duplicative research and outreach;
  - 2. Clarifies that any coordination shall in no way constitute or create any joint task force, joint authority, or joint decision-making body; and
  - 3. Clarifies that the End Landfills Task Force, the Working Group, and Relevant State Agencies shall remain independent and solely responsible for their own actions and operations.
- F. In the BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED clause, adds the following to the list of recipients who will be transmitted a copy of the resolution: the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply; the State of Hawai'i Director of Health; and the Governor.
- G. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.



## RESOLUTION

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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

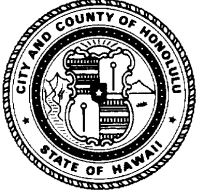
WHEREAS, the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, the City's only permitted public municipal solid waste landfill, is currently slated to cease operations by no later than March 2, 2028, and the facility's pending closure represents a key planning driver and near-term inflection point for the City; and

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



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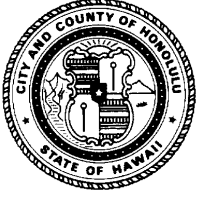
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WHEREAS, under Council Rule 9A, the Council may, by adoption of a resolution, establish advisory committees to assist the Council in the resolution or study of issues; now, therefore,

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 the Board of Water Supply;
5. A representative from Reworld Honolulu, LLC (formerly known as Covanta Honolulu Resource Recovery Venture, LLC) with professional knowledge of the operations at H-POWER;
6. A representative from the metal recycling sector;
7. A representative from the plastic recycling sector;
8. A representative from the energy recycling or conversion sector;
9. A representative from the oil or energy sector with professional knowledge of conversion technologies or supporting infrastructure;
10. A representative from United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO;
11. A representative from the State of Hawai'i Department of Health;



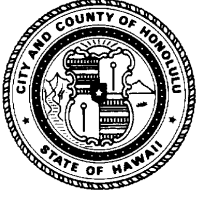
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12. A representative from the Office of the Governor;
13. A member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
14. A member of the Hawai'i State Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and
15. Any additional subject-matter expert or stakeholder deemed necessary by the Council to fulfill the purpose of the Task Force; and

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 feasibility, costs, benefits, risks, and environmental and workforce impacts associated with technologies and strategies intended to reduce or eliminate landfill reliance, such as advanced conversion technologies (e.g., pyrolysis and plasma arc gasification), unit-based or variable rate pricing mechanisms, and other emerging materials management strategies;
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;



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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 540 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 in carrying out the duties and responsibilities described above, the Task Force shall coordinate its activities with the temporary Solid Waste Management Working Group in the Office of the Governor that is proposed to be established pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2485, Regular Session of 2026, as may be amended, or any similar working group or task force so authorized or requested by the Hawai'i State Legislature during the Regular Session of 2026 ("Working Group"), and any other relevant State of Hawai'i agencies ("Relevant State Agencies"); and

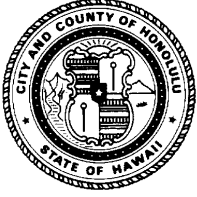
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is further encouraged to:

1. Share its data and analyses;
2. Participate in joint informational meetings or briefings where appropriate;
3. Align its timelines and analytical frameworks when feasible; and
4. Avoid duplicative research and outreach

with the Working Group and Relevant State Agencies; provided that any coordination between the Task Force and these entities shall in no way constitute or create any joint task force, joint authority, or joint decision-making body; provided further that the Task Force, Working Group, and Relevant State Agencies shall remain independent and solely responsible for their own actions and operations; 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 may not expend or encumber any appropriated funds unless expressly authorized by the Council; and



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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 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply; the Facility Manager of Reworld Honolulu, LLC; the State Director of United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO; the State of Hawai'i Director of Health; the Governor; the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives; and the President of the Hawai'i State Senate.

INTRODUCED BY:

Andria Tupola

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

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\_\_\_\_\_

January 12, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

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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; Board of Water Supply ("BWS"); BWS Manager and Chief Engineer; State of Hawai'i Department of Health; Office of the Governor; Hawai'i State Legislature; Report

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