



RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REQUIRE THAT MEDICAL AND BIOHAZARD WASTE BE INCINERATED.

WHEREAS, recent heavy rains on Oahu caused storm water to flow through a portion of the city's Waimanalo Gulch landfill and eventually be discharged through a storm drain onto nearby beaches and into the ocean; and

WHEREAS, the storm water that was discharged from the landfill carried refuse, including medical waste, that washed ashore onto beaches in the Ko Olina area and along the Kalaeloa and Waianae coasts; and

WHEREAS, the medical waste that washed ashore included syringes and vials that appeared to contain blood; and

WHEREAS, the resulting waste that flowed into the ocean or washed ashore caused the state to close the affected beaches; and

WHEREAS, days after the discharge of storm water from the landfill into the ocean, medical and other waste continued to either wash ashore or were found floating in the water along West Oahu, including the Ko Olina and Kalaeloa areas; and

WHEREAS, current rules of the State Department of Health allow medical waste, including syringes, to be disposed of at the city's landfill after being sterilized; and

WHEREAS, if medical waste is disposed of through incineration, there would be no danger to the public from medical wastes being carried away from the city's landfill and washing ashore after a heavy rain; and

WHEREAS, disposal of medical wastes through incineration should incorporate certain safeguards, such as protecting workers from such hazards as puncture wounds from used syringes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the State Department of Health, working with the assistance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or other relevant agency, is urged to require that medical and biohazard waste be incinerated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of Health is further urged to make regular inspections of operating landfills to ensure that proper

