



RESOLUTION

URGING THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY TO REPORT ON WHAT STEPS IT WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THE FINDING THAT HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MAY BE IN THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY.

WHEREAS, residents and visitors on the island of Oahu depend on the clean and pure water from its aquifers; and

WHEREAS, recently, however, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) released a report that the water supply of the island of Oahu contains high levels of hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium (VI), a known cancer-causing carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, according to EWG and Board of Water Supply (BWS) studies, the hexavalent chromium contamination level in Oahu's tap water tested at up to 4 parts per billion, higher than the 0.06 parts per billion that the State of California considers to be the safe limit, and the 0.04 parts per billion that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers safe; and

WHEREAS, although the EPA does not currently have a hexavalent chromium Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), it has published tap water goals in its Regional Screening Level tables and is currently reviewing the MCL; and

WHEREAS, the city's board of water supply is aware of the problem and is in the process of developing testing procedures and protocols specific to hexavalent chromium; and

WHEREAS, the BWS has started to assess the extent of chromium (VI) in Oahu's water supply by collecting and testing samples in consultation with the State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the information collected will help to establish a baseline of the presence of hexavalent chromium in our water in preparation for appropriate actions that may need to be taken in response to further regulatory guidance from the EPA; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the BWS is urged to review and analyze the EWG study and provide a report to the Council on what steps it will take to address the finding that hexavalent chromium may be in the Oahu's water supply when it receives further regulatory guidance from the EPA,



RESOLUTION

specifically as it relates to the excess cancer risk associated with the ingestion of chromium (VI) in Oahu's water supply; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the manager and chief engineer of the Board of Water Supply, the State Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Environmental Working Group.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ann Kobayashi

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

January 12, 2011
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers