
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a wide range of geological issues,
2 including coastal erosion, limited ground and surface water,
3 rock falls and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,
4 depleted rock aggregate resources, and geothermal energy; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's activities related to these geological
7 issues are spread among a variety of state and county agencies,
8 such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission
9 on Water Resource Management and Office of Conservation and
10 Coastal Lands, the Department of Health, and the county water
11 supply departments; and
12

13 WHEREAS, these state and county agencies serve specific
14 purposes for their respective agencies, potentially leaving gaps
15 in efforts to collect and analyze geologic data on issues of
16 importance to the State such as: geologic hazards, including but
17 not limited to earthquakes, coastal erosion and flooding, flash
18 flooding, rock falls, landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism;
19 and geologic resources, including but not limited to
20 groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying, sand and gravel mining,
21 geothermal energy, reef management, wetland and dune management,
22 and beach and shoreline management; and
23

24 WHEREAS, many mainland states have established a geological
25 survey, as a state agency that creates, interprets, and
26 disseminates applied earth science information to address
27 societal needs; and
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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only two states that has never
30 received federal funds to perform geological studies; and
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1 WHEREAS, a Hawaii state geological survey could compete for
2 such federal funds and provide a broader range of geological
3 information; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative
8 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on establishing
9 a geological survey as a state agency in Hawaii; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
12 the study include:
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- 14 (1) Identification of the needs or problems, if any, to be
15 addressed by a state geological survey;
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- 17 (2) Identification of existing resources and how those
18 resources are being utilized compared to a typical
19 geological survey agency in other states;
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- 21 (3) Identification of potential sources for additional
22 funding, staff, or other resources;
23
- 24 (4) Research into mainland states' geological surveys,
25 their purpose, histories, structure, funding, and
26 other pertinent information;
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- 28 (5) Identification of alternative forms that may satisfy
29 any unmet needs, including but not limited to
30 consolidating existing geologist positions under a
31 single entity and seeking to expand the United States
32 Geological Survey's Hawaii office;
33
- 34 (6) Identification of strengths and weaknesses of these
35 different alternatives; and
36
- 37 (7) Recommendations as to whether a geological survey
38 should be established as a state agency in Hawaii and
39 potential issues that would need to be addressed; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
42 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to consult, as
43 necessary, with the following individuals, organizations, and
44 interest groups:



- 1 (1) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- 2
- 3 (2) Department of Health;
- 4
- 5 (3) County water supply departments;
- 6
- 7 (4) University of Hawaii;
- 8
- 9 (5) United States Geological Survey; and
- 10
- 11 (6) Any other organization or person that the Legislative
- 12 Reference Bureau deems appropriate; and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 15 Bureau is requested to submit a report of any findings and
 16 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 17 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

18
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 21 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of
 22 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Health,
 23 the Mayor and the Chairperson of the Council of each county, the
 24 director of each county's water supply agency, the President of
 25 the University of Hawaii, and the District Chief of the Hawaii
 26 Office of the United States Geological Survey.

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