

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO IMPLEMENT XERISCAPING TO DECORATE ROADWAYS, MEDIAL STRIPS, ROUNDABOUTS AND OTHER AREAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

1 WHEREAS, water is our most precious natural resource and
2 cannot be considered limitless; and

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4 WHEREAS, the conservation of water is necessary not just in
5 times of drought, but in anticipation of Hawaii's future
6 population growth; and

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8 WHEREAS, the variety of vegetation found in Hawaii reflects
9 the islands' wide range of microclimates from tropical forest to
10 deserts; and

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12 WHEREAS, the goal of xeriscaping is to create a visually
13 attractive landscape by using drought-tolerant plants and
14 grasses in combination with irrigation techniques; and

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16 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is not to be confused with zero-
17 scaping which uses mainly plants found in the desert such as
18 juniper, cactus, or yucca; and

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20 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is considered more aesthetically
21 pleasing; and

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23 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian flora such a Piligrass
24 (heteropogon contortus), Sandalwood (santaum freycinetianum),
25 and Dwarf Naupaka (scaevola coriacea) can be utilized for
26 xeriscaping; and

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28 WHEREAS, a properly maintained xeriscape can easily use
29 less than one-half the water of a traditional landscape; and

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31 WHEREAS, a xeriscaped area not only reduces the amount of
32 water used compared to traditional landscapes, but also reduces
33 the amount of maintenance needed for watering, fertilizing,
34 mowing, trimming, and pruning; and



1 WHEREAS, planted areas established by the Department of
 2 Transportation have failed to receive regular maintenance and
 3 after a few years become unsightly;

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 5 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is ideally suited for the needs of the
 6 Department of Transportation and would provide aesthetic,
 7 economic, and environmental benefits for the Department and the
 8 State; now, therefore,

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 10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
 12 that the Department of Transportation is urged to implement
 13 xeriscaping to decorate roadways, medial strips, and
 14 roundabouts, and other areas under its jurisdiction; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 17 Transportation is also urged to use suitable indigenous
 18 vegetation in future xeriscaping projects; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of
 22 Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sakorn

