
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAKE WILSON.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Wahiawa reservoir,
2 commonly known as Lake Wilson, is Hawaii's largest reservoir
3 with a 3,000,000,000 gallon capacity. Given its size, Lake
4 Wilson could provide the water needed for the north shore of
5 Oahu's agricultural expansion, but the condition and quality of
6 the water today limits the crops produced on the north shore.
7 Nearby landowners hold about 20,000 acres of land that can be
8 used for agricultural production but is now limited to tree
9 crops, corn, and other production items that can use R-2
10 (disinfected secondary treated effluent) water. As a result,
11 the response to the demand for more food production in Hawaii
12 has been limited.

13 The legislature further finds that stopping the inflow of
14 treated effluence into the lake is particularly critical,
15 because the plan to upgrade city and county of Honolulu water to
16 R-1 (disinfected tertiary treated effluent) has not progressed
17 to the point of a solution.



1 The north shore is the last haven for agricultural
2 production on the island of Oahu, and the cleanup of the water
3 within the lake will allow the expansion of agricultural
4 production in the area. With land and clean water, farmers will
5 be able to increase their production, add varieties of food
6 crops, and contribute to Hawaii's goal of greater food
7 sustainability. The cleanup of the lake will also lead to
8 greater recreational opportunities, such as fishing, boating,
9 and other water recreation activities.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
11 assess the current condition and quality of the waters of Lake
12 Wilson and recommend actions to improve the water quality to
13 acceptable levels.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Lake Wilson task
15 force under the department of land and natural resources to
16 assess the current condition and quality of the waters of Lake
17 Wilson and recommend actions to improve the water quality to
18 acceptable levels.

19 The task force shall include representatives from the:

- 20 (1) Department of land and natural resources;
- 21 (2) Department of health, division of environmental
22 management;



- 1 (3) Department of agriculture;
- 2 (4) University of Hawaii;
- 3 (5) City and county of Honolulu;
- 4 (6) United States Army; and
- 5 (7) Landowners, lessees, and other private entities
- 6 associated with Lake Wilson.

7 The representative from the department of land and natural
8 resources shall serve as the chair of the task force.

9 Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be
10 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
11 for the performance of their duties.

12 In the performance of its duties, the Lake Wilson task
13 force shall consult with appropriate private, nonprofit,
14 community, agricultural, and government stakeholders.

15 (b) The task force shall:

- 16 (1) Assess the current condition and quality of the waters
17 of Lake Wilson and the impacts of various uses of and
18 discharges into the lake;
- 19 (2) Determine the appropriate water quality level
20 necessary to support agricultural, recreational, and
21 other uses;



1 (3) Review the ownership, leases, use agreements, permits,
2 and regulatory oversight of the lake and parcels of
3 land abutting the lake;

4 (4) Review the current operations and maintenance of the
5 lake by all parties, and the expenditures related to
6 each;

7 (5) Review any plans for sale or lease of the lake or
8 parcels abutting the lake, and the current status of
9 the plans;

10 (6) Assess the resources, both fiscal and nonfiscal, and
11 actions necessary to ensure an appropriate water
12 quality level necessary to support agricultural,
13 recreational, and other uses; and

14 (7) Any other information that may be appropriate to
15 complete the assessment and any related
16 recommendations.

17 (c) The Lake Wilson task force shall submit a report of
18 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 for the
2 Lake Wilson task force and its requirements under this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

6



Report Title:

Wahiawa Reservoir; Lake Wilson; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Lake Wilson task force to assess the current condition and quality of the waters of Lake Wilson and recommend actions to improve the water quality to acceptable levels; appropriates funds for the work of the task force. (SD1)

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