

JAN 23 2015

S.B. NO. 629

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO URBAN WATER CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established a four-year
2 irrigation water conservation best management practices pilot
3 program, under which the department of accounting and general
4 services shall implement irrigation water conservation best
5 management practices as established by the Landscape Industry
6 Council of Hawaii to improve the efficiency of landscape
7 irrigation installations at state facilities through low cost,
8 practical measures. The pilot program shall complete, at
9 minimum, four projects with an aggregate area of twenty-five
10 thousand square feet of landscape irrigation using best
11 management practices at or around the existing ten capital
12 district buildings that are part of a pilot study on energy and
13 water conservation.

14 Irrigation water conservation best management practices
15 shall include:

16 (1) Best management practices for maintenance; and



(2) Best management practices for new installations or major renovations.

(b) As used in this section:

"Best management practices for maintenance" includes the use of:

(1) Seasonal timing adjustments to irrigation controller systems;

(2) Aeration of lawns when compaction increases, and short run-time cycle irrigation in areas where runoff and ponding occur;

(3) Irrigation controllers programmed for long run times to water as deeply, evenly, and infrequently as possible to encourage deep rooting and increased drought resistance;

(4) Mulch, organic matter in soils, and drought-tolerant plants or plants that are naturally occurring at the site and surroundings;

(5) The practice of allowing grass to grow taller to conserve water; and

(6) Schedule systems to run water at night;



1 provided that best management practices for maintenance may also
2 include periodic practical water audits to review the system
3 components and verify that the components meet the original
4 design criteria for the efficient operation and uniform
5 distribution of water.

6 "Best management practices for new installations or major
7 renovations" includes the use of:

8 (1) New installations that require a coverage test prior
9 to acceptance; and irrigation system designs, plans,
10 and specifications that remain on site and contain
11 water conservation language;

12 (2) Systems designed with sprinklers spaced to achieve
13 head-to-head coverage or better and with a
14 precipitation rate not exceeding the soil infiltration
15 rate;

16 (3) Systems designed to irrigate similar site, slope, sun
17 exposure, soil conditions, and plant materials with
18 similar water use on the same circuit;

19 (4) Climate-based automatic irrigation controllers
20 utilizing either evapotranspiration and weather
21 sensors or soil moisture sensors;



(5) Flow sensors with a malfunction valve shutoff system capability in an irrigation controller and water submeters that measure outdoor water usage on larger sites;

(6) Water conserving irrigation components and check valves and drip irrigation for individual specimen plants;

(7) Storm water design methods, including infiltration beds, swales, and basins that allow water to collect and soak into the ground on site, utilizing low impact development principles;

(8) Nonpotable water sources when available; and

(9) A qualified irrigation designer, such as an Irrigation Association-certified irrigation designer, Irrigation Association-certified irrigation contractor, and a maintenance contractor with water conservation expertise.

SECTION 2. The department of accounting and general services shall submit a report regarding the results of the four-year irrigation water conservation best management practices pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to



S.B. NO. 629

1 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
 2 of the regular session of 2020. The report shall contain but
 3 shall not be limited to information on training conducted,
 4 installation measures, and water savings measured in gallons.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
 8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 9 year 2016-2017 for the implementation of a four-year irrigation
 10 water conservation best management practices pilot program
 11 pursuant to this Act.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 13 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.
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S.B. NO. 629

Report Title:

Urban Water Conservation; Best Management Practices; Public Agency; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a four-year pilot program requiring DAGS to implement irrigation water conservation best management practices as established by the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

