
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. As an island state, Hawaii has limited access
2 to natural fresh water. Competition for fresh water, increasing
3 population and development pressures, the rising awareness of
4 environmental and cultural water needs, and the impacts of
5 climate change require that Hawaii become as efficient as
6 possible in its uses of limited fresh water supplies. The
7 legislature finds that a water conservation program that
8 provides financial assistance to county-owned public water
9 systems and their customers to help implement water conservation
10 measures and practices will reduce water use or waste. County-
11 owned public water systems supply approximately two hundred
12 million gallons per day, or eighty per cent, of drinking water
13 in Hawaii.

14 SECTION 2. There is established within each of the four
15 county water supply departments, a two-year water conservation
16 financial assistance pilot program to provide financial



1 assistance to county-owned public water systems to implement
2 their respective water conservation incentive programs.

3 SECTION 3. As used in this Act:

4 "Public water system" has the same meaning as that term is
5 defined in section 340E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 "Water conserving technologies" means equipment,
7 appliances, and supplies that materially and predictably reduce
8 potable water use as determined by the commission and may
9 include rain barrels and cisterns, hot water circulation pumps,
10 soil moisture sensors, smart irrigation controllers, turf grass
11 replacement, air conditioning condensate capture, multi-unit
12 water sub-meters, WaterSense labeled water saving products,
13 high-efficiency toilets, grey-water systems, and other devices,
14 apparatus, or materials.

15 SECTION 4. To carry out the purposes of this Act, each
16 county water supply department shall:

- 17 (1) Administer and manage their water conservation
18 incentive programs and document the total estimated
19 amount of water conserved under their respective
20 program; and



1 (2) Provide funds on a one-to-one cost share basis to
2 match state funds appropriated for the purposes of the
3 conservation financial assistance pilot program.

4 SECTION 5. A county-owned public water system water
5 conservation incentive program may include:

6 (1) Rebate programs where county-owned public water
7 systems refund customers no more than fifty per cent
8 of the cost to install water conserving technologies
9 in residential, commercial, institutional, or
10 industrial settings; and

11 (2) Direct replacement programs where county-owned public
12 water systems pay for the total cost to install water
13 conserving technologies for customers in residential,
14 commercial, institutional, or industrial settings.

15 SECTION 6. To evaluate a program's effectiveness, each
16 county water supply department shall:

17 (1) Review its conservation incentive program and
18 determine the amount of non-state matching funds;

19 (2) Determine the impact of its conservation incentive
20 program on water conservation in terms of water saved;
21 and



1 (3) Report on the water conservation financial assistance
2 program.

3 Each county water supply department shall submit a report
4 of its findings to the legislature no later than twenty days
5 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

6 SECTION 7. Contractors and other third parties who receive
7 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by
8 the department of land and natural resources, the attorney
9 general, or the auditor. Upon request by such agencies, the
10 contractor or third party shall be required to submit for review
11 all files, records, documents, and accounting related to the use
12 and expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Act, whether
13 the funds were received via contract, grant, or other agreement.

14 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2018-2019 for the two-year water conservation financial
19 assistance pilot program; provided that no funds shall be
20 disbursed to a county unless matched by the county on a dollar-
21 for-dollar basis.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by each of the four
2 county water supply departments for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2019.

5



Report Title:

Water Conservation Rebate Program; County Water Supply
Departments; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050, repeals 6/30/19. (SD1)

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