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# 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 in  
13 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  
17 assistance to county-owned public water systems to implement  
18 their respective water conservation incentive programs.



1 As used in this Act:

2 "Public water system" has the same meaning as in section  
3 340E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

13 SECTION 3. To carry out the purposes of this Act, each  
14 county water supply department shall:

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

19 (2) Provide matching funds on a one-to-one cost share  
20 basis to match state funds appropriated for the



1 purposes of the conservation financial assistance  
2 pilot program.

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

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

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

14 SECTION 5. In order to evaluate the program's  
15 effectiveness, each county water supply department shall:

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

18 (2) Determine the impact, including how funds were used  
19 and results of investments, of its water conservation  
20 incentive program on water conservation in terms of  
21 water saved; and



1           (3) Make a recommendation to the legislature on whether  
 2           funding for the water conservation financial  
 3           assistance program should be expanded, extended, or  
 4           discontinued.

5           Each county water supply department shall submit a report  
 6 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 7 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 8 to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

9           SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
 12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 13 2018-2019 for the two-year water conservation financial  
 14 assistance pilot program; provided that:

- 15           (1) The appropriation shall be disbursed to each county on  
 16           a pro rata basis by population; and
- 17           (2) No funds shall be disbursed to a county unless matched  
 18           by that county on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

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



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017, and  
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2019.

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**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. (SD1)

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

