
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A WATER IRRIGATION PILOT PROJECT.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established a one-year irrigation
2 water conservation best management practices pilot program,
3 under which the department of accounting and general services,
4 department of transportation, and department of land and natural
5 resources shall implement irrigation water conservation best
6 management practices, as established by the Landscape Industry
7 Council of Hawaii, to improve the efficiency of all existing and
8 new landscape irrigation installations through low cost,
9 practical measures. Irrigation water conservation best
10 management practices shall include:

- 11 (1) Best management practices for maintenance; and
12 (2) Best management practices for new installations or
13 major renovations.

14 (b) As used in this section:

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



- 1 (1) Seasonal timing adjustments to irrigation controller
2 systems;
- 3 (2) Aeration of lawns when compaction increases, and short
4 run-time cycle irrigation in areas where runoff and
5 ponding occur;
- 6 (3) Irrigation controllers programmed for long run times
7 to water as deeply, evenly, and infrequently as
8 possible to encourage deep rooting and increased
9 drought resistance;
- 10 (4) Mulch, organic matter in soils, and drought-tolerant
11 plants or plants that are naturally occurring at the
12 site and surroundings;
- 13 (5) The practice of allowing grass to grow taller to
14 conserve water; and
- 15 (6) Water schedule systems that run water at night;
16 provided that best management practices for maintenance may also
17 include periodic practical water audits to review the system
18 components and verify that the components meet the original
19 design criteria for the efficient operation and uniform
20 distribution of water.



1 "Best management practices for new installations or major
2 renovations" includes the use of:

3 (1) New installations that require a coverage test prior
4 to acceptance; and irrigation system designs, plans,
5 and specifications that remain on site and contain
6 water conservation language;

7 (2) Systems designed with sprinklers spaced head-to-head
8 coverage or better, and with a precipitation rate not
9 exceeding the soil infiltration rate;

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

13 (4) Climate-based automatic irrigation controllers
14 utilizing either evapotranspiration and weather
15 sensors, or soil moisture sensors;

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



- 1 (6) Water conserving irrigation components and check
- 2 valves and drip irrigation for individual specimen
- 3 plants;
- 4 (7) Storm water design methods, including infiltration
- 5 beds, swales, and basins that allow water to collect
- 6 and soak into the ground on site, utilizing low impact
- 7 development principles;
- 8 (8) Nonpotable water sources when available; and
- 9 (9) A qualified irrigation designer, such as an Irrigation
- 10 Association-certified irrigation designer, Irrigation
- 11 Association-certified irrigation contractor, or a
- 12 maintenance contractor with water conservation
- 13 expertise.

14 SECTION 2. The department of accounting and general
15 services, department of transportation, and department of land
16 and natural resources shall each submit a report regarding the
17 results of the one-year irrigation water conservation best
18 management practices pilot program, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular session of 2019.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2017



H.B. NO. 1173

Report Title:

Water Conservation; Best Management Practices; Public Agencies

Description:

Establishes a one-year pilot program requiring DAGS, DOT, and DLNR to implement irrigation water conservation best management practices, as established by the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii. Requires DAGS, DOT, and DLNR to each submit a report regarding the results of the pilot program.

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