
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION ON FACILITATING THE RE-USE
OF WATER IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has been blessed with consistent rainfall,
2 advantageous geology, and high-quality drinking water stores for
3 centuries; and

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5 WHEREAS, recent findings have raised concern about the
6 long-term fresh water security in the State, as the University
7 of Hawaii and other scientists have documented troubling trends
8 in recent decades, including reduced rainfall, higher
9 temperatures, higher evaporation rates, declining stream flows,
10 and increased incidents of drought; and

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12 WHEREAS, if current trends hold, in the year 2030, Hawaii
13 will receive only three-quarters of the rain that fell in 1985;
14 and

15
16 WHEREAS, multiple prediction models tend to agree that
17 regardless of overall rainfall amounts, the dry and leeward side
18 of Hawaii, where the majority of the State's population lives,
19 will experience reduced rainfall and increased potential
20 evapotranspiration, which simultaneously creates less supply and
21 more demand for water; and

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23 WHEREAS, increased water runoff and less aquifer recharge
24 continue to occur as the State converts open agricultural land
25 into land for development; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Hawaii's population has doubled since statehood
28 and is expected to double again in the next sixty years, not
29 including the more than two hundred thousand tourists the State
30 hosts each day; and

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1 WHEREAS, the projected population rise, coupled with trends
2 indicating the likelihood of a reduction in fresh water in
3 Hawaii, suggests that Hawaii is entering into an era of fresh
4 water uncertainty, which creates an urgent need to guard our
5 future water supply; and

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7 WHEREAS, a drier, hotter future has serious consequences
8 for the long-term availability of fresh water in Hawaii, and
9 thereby threatens the economic security of the State; and

10
11 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water re-use in the State
12 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative, organized by
15 the Hawaii Community Foundation, was launched in 2013 to bring
16 multiple, diverse parties together to develop a forward-thinking
17 and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for the
18 State; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative has relied on a
21 blue ribbon advisory panel of individuals, known as the Hawaii
22 Fresh Water Initiative Fresh Water Council, with deep knowledge
23 of water and a collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a
24 more secure and sustainable water future based on shared values,
25 and shared sacrifice; and

26
27 WHEREAS, members of the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative Fresh
28 Water Council have agreed to continue working together to help
29 implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Fresh Water
30 Initiative and are committed to seeing the recommendations
31 adopted and implemented; and

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33 WHEREAS, both the Department of Health and the Hawaii
34 Community Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing
35 water re-use across the State by thirty million gallons per day
36 by 2030; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2018, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a



1 task force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water
2 re-use in the State; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
5 the following members:

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7 (1) The Deputy Director of Environmental Health at the
8 Department of Health, or the Director of Health's
9 designee;
- 10
11 (2) The Chair of the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative Fresh
12 Water Council, or the Chair's designee;
- 13
14 (3) The Environmental Program Director at Hawaii Community
15 Foundation, or the Director's designee;
- 16
17 (4) The Manager and Chief Engineer at the Honolulu Board
18 of Water Supply, or Chief Engineer's designee;
- 19
20 (5) One director level representative from each county,
21 should they be able and willing to participate, from
22 an agency with permitting or implementation authority
23 over water re-use in that county, and as designated by
24 each respective county mayor;
- 25
26 (6) The Chair of the House Committee on Water and Land, or
27 the Chair's designee;
- 28
29 (7) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,
30 or the Chair's designee; and
- 31
32 (8) A representative from the Legislative Reference
33 Bureau, who shall provide legislative drafting
34 assistance, should the task force propose any
35 legislation; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

- 38
39 (1) Collaborate with other state, county, and federal
40 agencies and private partners;

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- 1 (2) Review findings of how water re-use and gray water
- 2 regulations are administered in other states and
- 3 localities and in other countries, and assess the
- 4 feasibility of implementing similar regulations in
- 5 Hawaii;
- 6
- 7 (3) Examine proposed language for future regulation or
- 8 policy changes in Hawaii; and
- 9
- 10 (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for
- 11 water re-use in Hawaii; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 14 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 15 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 16 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 19 requested to provide administration and clerical support to the
 20 task force; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chair
 24 of the House Committee on Water and Land, the Chair of the
 25 Senate Committee on Water and Land, the Mayor of each county,
 26 the Director of Health, the Director of the Legislative
 27 Reference Bureau, and the Manager of the Honolulu Board of Water
 28 Supply.

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30
31 OFFERED BY:



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