

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO EXPANDED WATER REUSE IN
THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, for centuries, Hawai'i has been blessed with
2 consistent rainfall, advantageous geology for aquifers, and high
3 quality drinking water stores; and
4

5 WHEREAS, recent findings, however, raise concerns about the
6 long-term fresh water security for the State as the University
7 of Hawai'i and other scientists have documented troubling trends,
8 including reduced rainfall, higher evaporation rates, and
9 declining stream flows, in recent decades; and
10

11 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that rainfall has decreased
12 twenty-two percent in Hawai'i over the last thirty years, and
13 while computer models differ markedly in their predictions
14 regarding precipitation patterns and water availability in
15 Hawai'i over the coming decades, the unmistakable observed trend
16 is one of decreasing rainfall and increased incidence of
17 drought; and
18

19 WHEREAS, if the current trend holds, in 2030, Hawai'i will
20 receive only three-quarters of the rain that fell in 1985; and
21

22 WHEREAS, multiple prediction models tend to agree that
23 regardless of overall rainfall amount, the dry or leeward sides
24 of the islands, where the bulk of the State's population lives,
25 will experience reduced rainfall and increased potential
26 evapotranspiration, which simultaneously creates less supply and
27 more demand; and
28

29 WHEREAS, increased runoff and lower aquifer recharge occur
30 as the State converts open and agricultural land to development,
31 and rising temperatures mean more evaporation from soil and
32 surface water; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the State's population has doubled since statehood
3 and is expected to double again in the next sixty years, which
4 does not include the more than 200,000 tourists the State hosts
5 each day; and
6

7 WHEREAS, along with the projected population rise, these
8 trends generate a sense of uncertainty and urgency to guard the
9 State's future water supply, and suggest that Hawai'i is entering
10 an era of fresh water uncertainty; and
11

12 WHEREAS, a drier, hotter future has serious consequences
13 for the long-term availability of freshwater, and therefore the
14 economic security, of this island state; and
15

16 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water reuse in the State
17 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and
18

19 WHEREAS, Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative,
20 organized by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was launched in
21 2013 to bring multiple, diverse parties together to develop a
22 forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water
23 security for the State, and has relied on a blue ribbon advisory
24 panel of individuals with deep knowledge of water and a
25 collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a more secure
26 and sustainable water future based on shared values and
27 sacrifices; and
28

29 WHEREAS, unlike other blue ribbon advisory panels that
30 disband after issuing their reports, members of the Wai Maoli:
31 Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative have agreed to continue working
32 together as a Fresh Water Council to help implement
33 recommendations and are committed to seeing its recommendations
34 adopted and implemented; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community
37 Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing water reuse
38 across the State by thirty million gallons per day by 2030; now,
39 therefore,
40

41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
2 Health is requested to convene a task force to identify barriers
3 and solutions to expanded water reuse in the State; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
6 the following members:
7

- 8 (1) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health
9 Administration of the Department of Health, or the
10 Deputy Director's designee;
11
- 12 (2) The Chairperson of the Fresh Water Council of Wai
13 Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative, or the
14 Chairperson's designee;
15
- 16 (3) The Environmental Program Director of the Hawai'i
17 Community Foundation, or the Director's designee;
18
- 19 (4) A director-level representative, if the representative
20 is willing to participate, from a county agency with
21 permitting or implementation authority over water
22 reuse in that county, to be designated by the Mayor of
23 that respective county;
24
- 25 (5) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
26 Committee with subject matter purview over Water and
27 Land, or the Chairperson's designee;
28
- 29 (6) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee with subject
30 matter purview over Water and Land, or the
31 Chairperson's designee; and
32
- 33 (7) A representative from the Legislative Reference
34 Bureau, who shall provide legislative drafting
35 assistance, if the task force proposes any
36 legislation; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:
39

- 40 (1) Collaborate with other federal, state, and county
41 agencies and private entities;
42



S.C.R. NO. 117

- (2) Review findings of how water reuse and gray water regulations are administered in other states, localities, and countries, and assess the feasibility of implementing similar regulations in Hawai'i;
- (3) Examine proposed language for future regulation or policy changes in Hawai'i; and
- (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for water reuse in Hawai'i; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Mayor of each county, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Council, and President and Chief Executive Office of the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhoad

DC [Signature]

Mike Galtland

James Thiel

Ed Rivas

