HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO INCREASE PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A STORM WATER UTILITY.

WHEREAS, Act 42, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015 (Act 42), authorized the counties to charge user fees to create and maintain storm water management systems; and

WHEREAS, based on the authorization provided in Act 42, the City and County of Honolulu has proposed a storm water utility to collect storm water runoff and convert it into safe drinking water for the island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, promotional materials for the proposed utility advertise it as a way to produce clean water; protect the environment; and encourage public involvement, shared responsibility, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, in practice, the City and County of Honolulu's outreach efforts regarding the proposed utility have been limited, and many community meetings have been held on days and at times that are inconvenient for the working public; and

WHEREAS, because informational meetings have not been widely advertised or accessible, many residents may be unaware of the City and County of Honolulu's plans for the storm water utility; and

WHEREAS, many residents may be unaware that, under the existing plan, the utility would be funded through fees of up to \$28 per month for residents and up to \$2,000 per month for local businesses; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the City and County of Honolulu is urged to make a greater effort to engage in public outreach regarding the

county's plans for a storm water utility and to inform the public of all proposed monthly fees; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu is encouraged to widely advertise community meetings regarding the proposed storm water utility and to schedule the meetings on days and at times more accessible to the working public; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu City Council, and Stakeholder Advisory Group for the City Department of Facility Maintenance.

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OFFERED BY.

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Dan Carnes

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