
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that climate change
2 is occurring, and it is a priority issue for the State. Climate
3 change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's
4 economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

5 The legislature also recognizes that climate change creates
6 increased risks of both drought and sea level rise, making it
7 critical to maintain the State's water storage capabilities and
8 to protect downstream communities from flooding. To address
9 these risks, the Wahiawa dam and reservoir, which serves as a
10 major water supply for central and North Shore Oahu, must be
11 carefully monitored for safety and must be the subject of an
12 emergency intervention plan.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
14 department of land and natural resources engineering division
15 dam safety program to develop an emergency intervention plan for
16 the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources engineering division dam safety program shall develop
3 an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and
4 reservoir.

5 (b) The Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention
6 plan shall identify:

- 7 (1) Communities that may need to evacuate in a dam
8 emergency, using inundation maps that highlight flood
9 areas and estimated travel times for floodwaters;
- 10 (2) The dam owner's responsibilities to ensure timely and
11 effective action in the event of an emergency;
- 12 (3) The respective responsibilities of the State and the
13 city and county of Honolulu and their areas of
14 jurisdiction in the event of a dam emergency;
- 15 (4) Potential defects in the dam and reservoir;
- 16 (5) Any aspects of the dam and reservoir that are not in
17 compliance with dam safety standards;
- 18 (6) Financing opportunities to bring the dam into safety
19 compliance if necessary; and



1 (7) Opportunities for public outreach in the adjacent and
2 downstream communities, for both the State and the dam
3 owner.

4 (c) The department of land and natural resources
5 engineering division dam safety program shall submit the Wahiawa
6 dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan to the legislature
7 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
8 session of 2022.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
12 the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan. The
13 moneys shall be allocated as follows:

14 (1) \$1,000,000 to develop the Wahiawa dam and reservoir
15 emergency intervention plan;

16 (2) \$ to create one full-time equivalent (1.0
17 FTE) permanent position in the department of land and
18 natural resources engineering division dam safety
19 program for a planner V to aid in the development of
20 the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention
21 plan and to assist in carrying out dam inspection,



1 repair, and maintenance oversight pursuant to chapter
2 179D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
3 (3) \$3,000,000 to purchase necessary dam safety emergency
4 intervention equipment, which may include a dozer,
5 excavator, tractor and flat-bed trailer, and other
6 related dam supplies and materials which could include
7 erosion control measures.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; Wahiawa Dam and Reservoir; Emergency Intervention Plan;
Dam Safety; Appropriation

Description:

Directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop
an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and
reservoir. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

