
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 and implement an emergency
16 intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.



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

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

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



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

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

- 11 (1) \$1,000,000 to develop the Wahiawa dam and reservoir
12 emergency intervention plan;
- 13 (2) \$ to create one permanent full-time
14 equivalent position (1.0 FTE) in the department of
15 land and natural resources engineering division dam
16 safety program for a planner V to implement the
17 Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan
18 and to carry out dam inspection, repair, and
19 maintenance pursuant to chapter 179D, Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes; and



1 (3) \$3,000,000 to purchase necessary dam safety emergency
2 intervention equipment, including a dozer, excavator,
3 tractor and flat-bed trailer, and emergency dam
4 supplies for erosion control measures.

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

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
8 2033.



S.B. NO. 2303
S.D. 1

Report Title:

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

Description:

Directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/33. (SD1)

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