
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, IN COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has an abundance of geologic resources,
2 such as soil, rock, and mineral resources; groundwater; and
3 geothermal resources; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a wide range of geologic hazards,
6 including coastal erosion, landslides, flash flooding,
7 earthquakes, volcanism, and ocean hazards; and
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9 WHEREAS, sediment-laden surface water runoff is an
10 environmental hazard that threatens nearshore water quality; and
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12 WHEREAS, watershed management planning is recognized as the
13 best approach to identify where to implement best management
14 practices to reduce surface runoff into nearshore receiving
15 waters; and
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17 WHEREAS, hazard mitigation planning is needed to reduce the
18 risk to island communities from landslides, flash flooding, and
19 wildland fires; and
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21 WHEREAS, geologic maps are essential tools for watershed
22 mapping and the development of effective watershed management
23 plans and hazard mitigation plans; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii's mapping capability for purposes of
26 watershed management and hazard mitigation is insufficient
27 because of the lack of a centralized scientific office to
28 provide expertise, conduct research, and map the State's
29 resources and hazard zones for public safety and for resource
30 management planning; and



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2 WHEREAS, many other states have an established geological
3 survey responsible for producing maps of natural processes,
4 assessing threats, compiling and centralizing data, coordinating
5 with other agencies, and adding a scientific dimension to
6 planning; and
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8 WHEREAS, these state geological surveys are able to receive
9 federal funding to meet their states' geological mapping
10 priorities through the United States Geological Survey's
11 National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program; and
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13 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey created the
14 National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program to produce
15 accurate geologic maps and three-dimensional framework models in
16 the United States to be used for land-use management, threat
17 assessment, conservation of natural resources, groundwater
18 management, natural-hazard mitigation, and environmental
19 protection; and
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21 WHEREAS, the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program
22 is the primary source of funds for the production of geologic
23 maps in the United States; and
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25 WHEREAS, one component of the National Cooperative Geologic
26 Mapping Program is the STATEMAP program, which provides federal
27 funds to state geological surveys to enable new geologic mapping
28 projects determined to be vital to the economic, social, or
29 scientific welfare of individual states; and
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31 WHEREAS, geologic maps produced through the National
32 Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program provide useful data for
33 decision-makers in interpreting and evaluating their state's
34 unique natural resources and hazards and in creating effective
35 management plans; and
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37 WHEREAS, as of 2020, STATEMAP has invested more than
38 \$150,000,000 in forty-eight state geological surveys to complete
39 geologic mapping projects critical to the health and security of
40 the residents and natural resources of individual states; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is currently unable to participate in the
2 National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program and therefore
3 unable to receive STATEMAP funds because it has no state
4 geological survey; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii is the only state in the nation without a
7 geological survey and is one of only two states in the nation
8 that has never received federal funds to perform geological
9 studies; and
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11 WHEREAS, without a geological survey, Hawaii is currently
12 monitoring and researching natural resources and hazards through
13 an unorganized combination of federal, state, and county
14 engineers and consultants; and
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16 WHEREAS, this unorganized system has led to a gap in
17 mapping for Hawaii, thereby limiting its mapping capability,
18 especially for purposes of watershed management and hazard
19 mitigation; and
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21 WHEREAS, a state geological survey in Hawaii would unify
22 the State's mapping capability, make Hawaii eligible to compete
23 for applicable federal funds, and provide a broader range of
24 geological information for public and state decision-makers to
25 use in mitigation and management planning; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Office of Planning, in
30 collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources,
31 University of Hawaii, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency,
32 Department of Transportation, and the appropriate county
33 planning departments and county emergency management agencies,
34 is requested to develop a plan to establish a state geological
35 survey in Hawaii; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
38 requested to evaluate in the plan:
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- 40 (1) Proposed scopes of work for the state geologic survey,
41 including proposed ways to consolidate existing
42 functions into a state geological survey;



- 1 (2) Proposed organizational structures of the state
2 geological survey, including advantages and
3 disadvantages of each proposed structure;
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- 5 (3) Proposed staff positions that would be needed for the
6 state geological survey, including salary levels;
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- 8 (4) Proposed sources for funding or other necessary
9 resources; and
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- 11 (5) Enabling legislation to create the state geological
12 survey; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
15 requested to consult also with the United States Geological
16 Survey and any other organization or person that the Office
17 deems appropriate; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon request of the Office of
20 Planning, the Legislative Reference Bureau is directed to assist
21 in the preparation of any proposed legislation that may be
22 required to implement the Office of Planning's findings and
23 recommendations; provided that, before December 1, 2021, the
24 Office of Planning submits any draft documents, including
25 information and materials deemed necessary by the Legislative
26 Reference Bureau, for the preparation of proposed legislation;
27 and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
30 requested to submit a report of its findings and
31 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
32 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
33 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
37 of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Chairperson of the Board of
38 Land and Natural Resources, Director of Transportation, Director
39 of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Director of the
40 Office of Planning, Chairperson of the University of Hawaii
41 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii System,
42 and Directors of the applicable planning department and
43 emergency management agency of each of the counties.

