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# 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



1 WHEREAS, many other states have an established geological  
2 survey responsible for producing maps of natural processes,  
3 assessing threats, compiling and centralizing data, coordinating  
4 with other agencies, and adding a scientific dimension to  
5 planning; and

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7 WHEREAS, these state geological surveys are able to receive  
8 federal funding to meet their states' geological mapping  
9 priorities through the United States Geological Survey's  
10 National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program; and

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12 WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey created the  
13 National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program to produce  
14 accurate geologic maps and three-dimensional framework models in  
15 the United States to be used for land-use management, threat  
16 assessment, conservation of natural resources, groundwater  
17 management, natural-hazard mitigation, and environmental  
18 protection; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program  
21 is the primary source of funds for the production of geologic  
22 maps in the United States; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, one component of the National Cooperative Geologic  
25 Mapping Program is the STATEMAP program, which provides federal  
26 funds to state geological surveys to enable new geologic mapping  
27 projects determined to be vital to the economic, social, or  
28 scientific welfare of individual states; and

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30 WHEREAS, geologic maps produced through the National  
31 Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program provide useful data for  
32 decision-makers in interpreting and evaluating their state's  
33 unique natural resources and hazards and in creating effective  
34 management plans; and

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36 WHEREAS, as of 2020, STATEMAP has invested more than  
37 \$150,000,000 in forty-eight state geological surveys to complete  
38 geologic mapping projects critical to the health and security of  
39 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:



- 1 (1) Proposed scopes of work for the state geologic survey,  
2 including proposed ways to consolidate existing  
3 functions into a state geological survey;  
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- 5 (2) Proposed organizational structures of the state  
6 geological survey, including advantages and  
7 disadvantages of each proposed structure;  
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- 9 (3) Proposed staff positions that would be needed for the  
10 state geological survey, including salary levels;  
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- 12 (4) Proposed sources for funding or other necessary  
13 resources; and  
14
- 15 (5) Enabling legislation to create the state geological  
16 survey; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
19 requested to consult also with the United States Geological  
20 Survey and any other organization or person that the Office  
21 deems appropriate; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon request of the Office of  
24 Planning, the Legislative Reference Bureau is directed to assist  
25 in the preparation of any proposed legislation that may be  
26 required to implement the Office of Planning's findings and  
27 recommendations; provided that, before December 1, 2022, the  
28 Office of Planning submits any draft documents, including  
29 information and materials deemed necessary by the Legislative  
30 Reference Bureau, for the preparation of proposed legislation;  
31 and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
34 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
36 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
37 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
41 of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Chairperson of the Board of  
42 Land and Natural Resources, Director of Transportation, Director



1 of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Director of the  
2 Office of Planning, Chairperson of the University of Hawaii  
3 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii System,  
4 and Directors of the applicable planning department and  
5 emergency management agency of each of the counties.

