HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII TO UPGRADE THE CAPACITY OF ITS SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND REDUNDANCY OF THE COMPONENTS TO ENSURE THAT FINAL EFFLUENT QUALITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii discharges approximately one and a half million gallons of treated wastewater a day, or ten percent of the total effluent going to the ocean outfall, into Kailua Bay, which is intensively used by swimmers, paddlers, divers, and surfers; and

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii must comply with final effluent bacteria limitations set forth by the Department of Health through the issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System permit in order to protect water quality and human health; and

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii exceeded those limitations in August 2020, March 2021, July 2021, August 2021, October 2021, and February 2022 due to a lack of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii water reclamation facility infrastructure was originally constructed in 1947 and does not currently include system redundancy to support necessary system maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Water Quality Plan by the Department of Health sets forth the goal of increasing water reuse for irrigation and industrial purposes in order to conserve water and reduce discharge into the ocean; and

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Hawaii is the largest water consumer in Windward Oahu, utilizing fresh potable water to irrigate landscaping and golf course areas; and

WHEREAS, Maui County and Kauai County have met the goals for reuse of wastewater, while the City and County of Honolulu and Hawaii County have made progress toward reuse goals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that Marine Corps Base Hawaii is urged to upgrade the capacity of its sewage treatment plant and redundancy of the components to ensure that final effluent quality is in compliance with state permitting requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marine Corps Base Hawaii is requested to reestablish its water reuse system to irrigate Klipper Golf Course and increase distribution to other parts of the base to reduce the use of drinking water when reused wastewater could be used instead and reduce the amount of discharge into Kailua Bay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Department of Defense installation services in Hawaii are requested to seek to migrate from R2 to R1 treatment standards, maximizing irrigation, reducing potable water consumption on military bases, and reducing discharge into Hawaii's waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Adjutant General.