

MAR 10 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PRIORITIZE ENFORCEMENT OF
WATER POLLUTION REGULATIONS IN AREAS WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN
REPORTS OF RUNOFF AND OTHER FORMS OF WATER POLLUTION ON
MOLOKAI.

1 WHEREAS, climate change has led to increased frequency and
2 magnitude of extreme rains; and

3
4 WHEREAS, groundwater resulting from extreme rainfall can
5 become polluted with silt, debris, and other pollutants; and

6
7 WHEREAS, polluted ground water often washes into coastal
8 areas and damages marine reefs; and

9
10 WHEREAS, in 2002 and 2018, runoff from extreme rains on
11 Kauai devastated nearby reefs, leading to a twenty percent
12 reduction in the local fish population and a forty percent
13 reduction in the local urchin population; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Molokai's southern reef, which is the longest
16 continuous fringing reef in the United States, has suffered
17 extensive damage from runoff pollution in recent years; and

18
19 WHEREAS, damage from ground water pollution and runoff has
20 been especially common in areas where owners of large tracts of
21 land use those lands for activities that destabilize the soil;
22 now, therefore,

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
27 Health is requested to prioritize enforcement with penalties of
28 water pollution control regulations in rural areas where there
29 are existing reports of runoff; and
30



S.C.R. NO. 75

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
2 requested to prepare and submit a report of its findings and
3 recommendations, including actions taken, progress made, and any
4 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than thirty
5 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
9

10
11 OFFERED BY:

Lyn LaCorte

