

MAR 03 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES'
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON WATER RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, the State is currently in a housing crisis and
2 will require an additional fifty-seven thousand affordable
3 housing units by 2025 in order to meet long-term housing
4 demands; and

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6 WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2020, only twenty percent of the
7 housing needs for local residents below one hundred forty
8 percent area median income (AMI) was met; and

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10 WHEREAS, according to the Comprehensive Affordable Housing
11 Plan to the Maui County Council, the Hawaiian Community Assets
12 provided a plan to build five thousand new affordable homes for
13 local renters and homebuyers in the next five years; and

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15 WHEREAS, there are limited tools available to Maui County
16 to meet the needs of extremely and very low-income households
17 below fifty percent AMI and low-and moderate-income households
18 between sixty-one percent and one hundred percent AMI; and

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20 WHEREAS, despite the dire need for housing in Maui County,
21 there are essential factors and concerns regarding the amount of
22 potable and non-potable water supply available for residents;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, from July to October 2021, there was a water
26 shortage declaration for Upcountry Maui, requesting residents to
27 conserve water and reduce nonessential uses under a Stage 1
28 water shortage declaration; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Stage 1 water shortage declaration was also
31 fueled by recent drought situations in Maui County that caused
32 destructive wildfires; and

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S.R. NO. 11

1 WHEREAS, to address the ongoing shortage of affordable
2 housing while also planning around drought conditions that
3 impact water supply, there is a growing need to conduct a study
4 on the Maui County water capacity to support residents; now,
5 therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
9 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission on
10 Water Resource Management is requested to conduct a study on the
11 capacity of potable and non-potable water in various regions
12 across the County of Maui to determine if sufficient water
13 capacity exists for the County to expand its affordable housing
14 supply; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but is
17 not limited to an examination pertaining to the County of Maui
18 on natural and artificial water sources, water infrastructure,
19 volume, current use, and projected use of potable and non-
20 potable water; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall further
23 investigate water resources available to accommodate residential
24 development; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Water
27 Resource Management is urged to consult and seek input from the
28 community, any individual, or entity it deems necessary to
29 complete the study; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Water
32 Resource Management is requested to submit a report of its
33 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
34 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
35 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department
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S.R. NO. 11

1 of Land and Natural Resources, Deputy Director of the Division
2 on Water Resource Management, Mayor of the County of Maui, and
3 members of the Maui County Council.

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OFFERED BY:

Lyn de Cotte

