

MAR 10 2022

SENATE 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

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

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

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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

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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

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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,

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

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 requested to prepare and submit a report of its findings and
33 recommendations, including actions taken, progress made, and any



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1 proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than thirty
2 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:

Lyn DeCote

