
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER NEUTRALITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the concept of water
2 neutrality was conceived at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable
3 Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. While the definition
4 of "water neutrality" has varied over the past twenty years, the
5 term generally means a process that balances water use through
6 reduced water usage and investment in projects that increase the
7 supply of fresh water.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate
9 funds for a task force to develop a plan for Hawaii to be water-
10 neutral by the year 2050.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the commission
12 on water resource management for administrative purposes the
13 water neutrality task force.

14 (b) The task force shall create a plan for Hawaii to
15 become water-neutral by the year 2050. The water neutrality
16 plan shall include plans to:

17 (1) Reduce water usage;



- 1 (2) Increase water reuse and water recycling; and
- 2 (3) Increase the supply of fresh water.

3 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members
4 or their designees:

5 (1) The chairperson of the commission on water resource
6 management, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
7 task force;

8 (2) The deputy director for environmental health
9 administration of the department of health;

10 (3) The chairperson of the board of agriculture;

11 (4) A member of the commission on water resource
12 management with substantial experience or expertise in
13 traditional Hawaiian water resource management
14 techniques;

15 (5) The chairperson of the house of representatives
16 standing committee with primary subject matter purview
17 over water and land; and

18 (6) The chairperson of the senate standing committee with
19 primary subject matter purview over water and land.

1 (d) In addition to the members specified in subsection
2 (c), the chairperson shall invite the following individuals to
3 be members of the task force:

4 (1) A director-level representative from a county agency
5 with permitting or implementation authority over water
6 reuse in that county;

7 (2) A representative from a public agency with permitting
8 or implementation authority over wastewater;

9 (3) A representative of the Fresh Water Council of Wai
10 Maoli: Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative;

11 (4) The environmental program director of the Hawai'i
12 Community Foundation, or the director's designee;

13 (5) The manager and chief engineer, or the manager's
14 designee, from each county board or department of
15 water supply; and

16 (6) Any other individual whom the chairperson of the task
17 force determines would provide a benefit to the task
18 force.

19 (e) Private members of the task force shall serve without
20 compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses,

1 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
2 duties.

3 (f) The task force shall consider the recommendations made
4 by the water reuse task force established pursuant to H.C.R.
5 No. 86, S.D. 1 (2018).

6 (g) The task force shall submit a report to the
7 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the regular session of 2026. The report shall include the water
9 neutrality plan, findings, recommendations, and any proposed
10 legislation.

11 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to
15 establish a water neutrality task force and water neutrality by
16 2050 plan.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
18 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

Water Neutrality; Commission on Water Resource Management; Task Force; Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the water neutrality task force to develop a plan for Hawaii to become water-neutral by the year 2050. Requires the task force to submit a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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