

MAR 03 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAI'I COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INCREASING WATER ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING WATER  
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON HAWAI'I  
ISLAND.

1           WHEREAS, water is life; and

2  
3           WHEREAS, access to reliable water infrastructure and clean  
4 drinking water is essential for personal and public health; and

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6           WHEREAS, a lack of access to a consistent water supply  
7 prevents the development of basic infrastructure in rural and  
8 remote areas, including the establishment of public schools,  
9 medical and community health centers, grocery stores, and  
10 financial institutions; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, many communities located on the southwestern side  
13 of Hawai'i Island, including Ocean View, Miloli'i, and other  
14 nearby subdivisions, lack access to county water infrastructure;  
15 and

16  
17           WHEREAS, in 2012, the Hawai'i County Department of Water  
18 Supply launched the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates Water Facilities  
19 Project in Ocean View, which involved the construction of a  
20 standpipe well for the community; and

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22           WHEREAS, despite the establishment of the well, water  
23 access remains a significant challenge for residents of Ocean  
24 View, Miloli'i, and neighboring communities, most of whose  
25 residents continue to rely on catchment systems; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, areas that receive much less rainfall than the  
28 southwestern part of Hawai'i Island, such as Waikoloa, have  
29 reliable county water infrastructure which receives  
30 approximately nine inches of rainfall per year on average in



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1 comparison to the twenty-six inches of rainfall experienced each  
2 year on average in Ocean View; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, inadequate water infrastructure represents a  
5 glaring example of structural inequality for the southwestern  
6 part of Hawai'i Island, which ranks below the state average in  
7 household income, educational attainment, and other key social  
8 and economic indicators; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
12 that the Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply is requested  
13 to convene a working group to examine opportunities for  
14 increasing water access and strengthening water infrastructure  
15 for underserved communities on Hawai'i Island; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Department of  
18 Water Supply is urged to invite to participate in its working  
19 group individuals with expertise in the development of water  
20 resources in barren areas, faculty at the University of Hawai'i  
21 who conduct research into water resource management, and  
22 community members; and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
25 to submit a report on its efforts to increase access to water on  
26 Hawai'i Island, including any findings, recommendations, and  
27 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
28 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Hawai'i County,  
32 Chairperson of the Hawai'i County Council, Chairperson of the  
33 Hawai'i County Water Board, and Manager-Chief Engineer of the  
34 Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply.

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37 OFFERED BY: 

