
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that section 174C-101(a),
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires decisions of the commission on
3 water resource management to incorporate and protect adequate
4 reserves of water for current and foreseeable development and
5 use of Hawaiian home lands. The purpose of this Act is to add
6 the chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission, or the
7 chairperson's designee, to the commission on water resource
8 management in a similar ex officio membership as the director of
9 health or the director's designee.

10 SECTION 2. Section 174C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

12 "(a) There is established within the department a
13 commission on water resource management consisting of [~~seven~~]
14 eight members which shall have exclusive jurisdiction and final
15 authority in all matters relating to implementation and
16 administration of the state water code, except as otherwise
17 specifically provided in this chapter.

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1 (b) Five members shall be appointed by the governor
 2 subject to confirmation by the senate in the manner prescribed
 3 in subsection (d). Each ~~[member]~~ of these five members shall
 4 have substantial experience in the area of water resource
 5 management; provided that at least one member shall have
 6 substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian
 7 water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian
 8 riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101. The
 9 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources shall be
 10 the chairperson of the commission. The director of health and
 11 the chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or ~~[the~~
 12 ~~director's designee]~~ their respective designees shall serve as
 13 ~~[an]~~ ex officio~~[+]~~, ~~[+]~~ voting ~~[member-]~~ members."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17

18 INTRODUCED BY: *Sam*

19

BY REQUEST
 JAN 22 2024

H.B. NO. 2417

Report Title:

Commission on Water Resource Management; Membership

Description:

Adds the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Increases number of commission members from seven to eight, with only five of eight required to have substantial experience in water resource management.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Hawaiian Home Lands

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

PURPOSE: To add the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

MEANS: Amend section 174C-7(a) and (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: The State Water Code requires that decisions of the Commission on Water Resource Management incorporate and protect adequate reserves of water for current and foreseeable development and use of Hawaiian Home Lands. Allowing the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management, would provide an opportunity for the Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee to participate in setting policies, defining uses, and establishing priorities and procedures over land-based surface water and ground water resources, which are key components of the development and use of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Clarifies in section 174C-7(b), HRS, that only five water commission members selected by the Governor must have substantial experience in the area of water resource management.

Impact on the public: This bill protects the interests of beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, by allowing the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chairperson's designee to serve as an ex officio voting member of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
An additional member would serve on the
Commission on Water Resource Management.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: HHL 625.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Commission on Water Resource Management.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.