
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND COUNTY OF MAUI TO INVENTORY AND MAP EXISTING R-1 WATER DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND RESERVOIRS IN MAUI COUNTY.

1 WHEREAS, within Maui County, an average of more than
2 8,700,000 gallons of treated wastewater is disposed of every day
3 using injection wells, causing groundwater contamination, algae
4 blooms, and coral reef damage in nearshore waters; and

5
6 WHEREAS, to prevent and mitigate further environmental
7 harm, additional infrastructure is needed for treatment,
8 distribution, and storage of reclaimed water for subsequent use;
9 and

10
11 WHEREAS, the most desirable uses for reclaimed water are
12 for emergency firefighting and for irrigation of agricultural
13 lands and landscaping; and

14
15 WHEREAS, in August 2023, a wildfire in Lahaina burned an
16 estimated 2,170 acres, killing at least one hundred individuals,
17 injuring many others, and destroying or damaging approximately
18 two thousand two hundred structures; and

19
20 WHEREAS, it is preferable to use recycled fresh water from
21 reservoirs to fight wildfires, rather than ocean water, because
22 the salinity from ocean water alters the chemical composition of
23 the affected soil, leading to barren landscapes that are unable
24 to support native plant life and experience intensified erosion,
25 which carries the salinized soil to other areas; and

26
27 WHEREAS, providing firefighters with access to stored
28 reclaimed water with which to fight fires will increase public
29 safety and protect affected lands; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

WHEREAS, water is a scarce and valuable commodity that should not be disposed of without careful consideration; and

WHEREAS, without increasing the use of reclaimed water in the State, residents will encounter potable drinking water shortages caused by the overuse of potable drinking water for agricultural, landscaping, or firefighting purposes; and

WHEREAS, using former plantation reservoirs to store reclaimed water will allow for easier access for agricultural and landscaping use for West Maui and will provide firefighters with efficient access to fresh water; and

WHEREAS, an important first step in increasing the use of reclaimed water is to create accurate inventories and maps of existing R-1 water delivery systems and reservoirs that may be used for reclaimed water storage; and

WHEREAS, R-1 water refers to water recycled from wastewater that has undergone oxidation, filtration, and disinfection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and County of Maui are requested to create an inventory of, and produce maps that identify, existing R-1 water delivery systems and reservoirs in Maui County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and County of Maui are requested to submit the inventory and maps to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the



- 1 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and Mayor of the
- 2 County of Maui.

