
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE 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, an average of more than 8,700,000 gallons of
2 treated wastewater is disposed of every day using injection
3 wells on the island of Maui, causing groundwater contamination,
4 algae blooms, and coral reef damage in nearshore waters; and
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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
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11 WHEREAS, the most desirable uses for reclaimed water are
12 for emergency firefighting, and for irrigation of agricultural
13 lands and landscaping; and
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15 WHEREAS, in August 2023, a wildfire in Lahaina burned an
16 estimated 2,170 acres, killing at least one hundred people,
17 injuring many others, and destroying or damaging approximately
18 two thousand two hundred structures; and
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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
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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
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31 WHEREAS, water is a scarce and valued commodity that should
32 not be disposed of without careful consideration; and
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1 WHEREAS, without increasing the use of reclaimed water in
2 the State, residents will encounter potable drinking water
3 shortages caused by the overuse of potable drinking water for
4 agricultural, landscaping, or firefighting purposes; and
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6 WHEREAS, using former plantation reservoirs to store
7 reclaimed water will allow for easier access for agricultural
8 and landscaping use for West Maui and will provide firefighters
9 with efficient access to fresh water; and
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11 WHEREAS, an important first step in increasing the use of
12 reclaimed water is to create accurate inventories and maps of
13 existing R-1 water delivery systems and reservoirs that may be
14 used for reclaimed water storage; and
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16 WHEREAS, R-1 water refers to water recycled from wastewater
17 that has undergone oxidation, filtration, and disinfection; now,
18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
22 that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and
23 County of Maui are requested to create an inventory of, and
24 produce maps that identify, existing R-1 water delivery systems
25 and reservoirs on the island of Maui; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and
28 Sustainable Development and County of Maui are requested to
29 submit the inventory and maps to the Legislature no later than
30 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
31 2025; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
35 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the Office of
36 Planning and Sustainable Development; and Mayor of the County of
37 Maui.

