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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY-CERTIFIED LABORATORY IN HAWAII TO TEST DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS.

1 WHEREAS, water is life; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Red Hill water crisis that began in November  
4 2021 highlighted the vulnerability of the State's aquifers, and  
5 demonstrated the dangerous health effects that drinking  
6 contaminated water can have on the human body; and

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8 WHEREAS, there is currently no Environmental Protection  
9 Agency-certified laboratory in Hawaii that is able to test  
10 drinking water for the presence of toxic chemicals, such as  
11 total petroleum hydrocarbons, or other contaminants, such as  
12 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as  
13 PFAS; and

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15 WHEREAS, when drinking water needs to be tested, samples  
16 must be transported to California to access a certified  
17 laboratory; and

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19 WHEREAS, if testing were conducted locally, testing could  
20 be completed approximately one week earlier because travel time  
21 and other logistical hurdles could be avoided; and

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23 WHEREAS, because water samples must be transported  
24 thousands of miles, there is also the possibility that  
25 disruptions, such as transportation issues, could cause a sample  
26 to reach an unacceptable temperature, making the sample  
27 unsuitable for testing and thus requiring a new sample to be  
28 transported; and



1 WHEREAS, there is also the potential that future  
2 emergencies may disrupt transportation to and from Hawaii, which  
3 could make transporting water samples out of the State  
4 impossible; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, in emergency situations, delays and risks posed by  
7 transporting water samples outside the State for testing are  
8 unacceptable and pose a major threat to public health; and

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10 WHEREAS, accordingly, the State should examine the  
11 possibility of upgrading its in-state testing capabilities to  
12 ensure that public health issues with our drinking water can be  
13 quickly identified; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
17 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference  
18 Bureau is requested to study the feasibility of:

- 19  
20 (1) Establishing in Hawaii an Environmental Protection  
21 Agency-certified laboratory capable of testing  
22 drinking water for toxic chemicals, such as total  
23 petroleum hydrocarbons, and other contaminants, such  
24 as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and  
25  
26 (2) Upgrading the Department of Health laboratory in Pearl  
27 City to meet Environmental Protection Agency  
28 certification requirements for testing for toxic  
29 chemicals and other contaminants; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study consider:

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33 (1) The initial costs to establish or upgrade a  
34 laboratory;  
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36 (2) The annual costs required to operate the laboratory;  
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38 (3) Effective organizational structures; and  
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40 (4) Entities that may be appropriate to host the  
41 laboratory; and  
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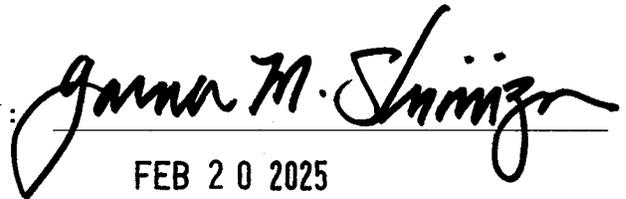
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1           WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of  
2 Health, Board of Water Supply of the City and County of  
3 Honolulu, and other relevant public and private entities are  
4 requested to cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau and  
5 furnish any information and assistance as the Legislative  
6 Reference Bureau reasonably deems necessary to accomplish its  
7 purposes; and  
8

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
10 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
12 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
13 the Regular Session of 2026; and  
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15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Regional  
17 Administrator for Region 9 of the Environmental Protection  
18 Agency, Director of Health, Director of the Legislative  
19 Reference Bureau, and Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of  
20 Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
FEB 20 2025

