

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WATER ACCESS PILOT PROJECT DEMONSTRATING THE KOHALA REGION'S CAPACITY FOR A POTABLE WATER SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Kohala mountains on Hawaii island represent an
2 ideal location for a water pump storage hydroelectric facility
3 due to the unique geography of the region; and
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5 WHEREAS, the elevation of the Kohala mountains facilitates
6 the downhill flow of water through a series of reservoirs to
7 generate electricity; and
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9 WHEREAS, wind turbines are a complementary source of
10 renewable energy that augment the generation of electricity; and
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12 WHEREAS, in the evenings when the demand for electricity is
13 lower, the energy generated by the wind turbines would be used
14 to pump the water stored in reservoirs at lower elevations to
15 reservoirs at higher elevations, preparing it for the next day's
16 energy needs; and
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18 WHEREAS, the State is in need of a comprehensive water plan
19 for both potable and irrigation water, a comprehensive
20 agricultural plan that includes local production and processing,
21 and a comprehensive renewable energy plan that complements
22 agriculture; and
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24 WHEREAS, a water pump storage hydroelectric facility is a
25 critical component of these comprehensive plans as it would
26 provide a source of potable water, water for irrigation, and
27 reduce energy costs; and
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29 WHEREAS, the ideal parcel of land located in the Kohala
30 mountains for the construction of the facility is owned by the
31 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and
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33 WHEREAS, construction of a water pump storage hydroelectric
34 facility would increase the potential availability of potable



1 water and attract more native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the
2 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to the area; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
6 that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is requested to
7 develop and implement a Water Access Pilot Project demonstrating
8 the Kohala region's ability to access water and develop a
9 potable water system; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
12 Lands is requested to submit a report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
19 Homes Commission.

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22 OFFERED BY:

