

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1428

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 54
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 54 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH A DESALINATION
PLANNING TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE USE OF
DESALINATION FOR LARGE-SCALE WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE STATE
IS FEASIBLE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Land and Natural Resources to convene and provide
administrative assistance to a Desalination Planning Task Force to
determine whether the use of desalination for large-scale water
consumption in the State is feasible.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that freshwater scarcity is an
increasingly present threat to communities around the world in the
face of population growth and climate change. Your Committee
further finds that islands like Oahu rely on underground aquifers
for their freshwater supply, which take decades to replenish



naturally and are susceptible to chemical spills and leaks, droughts, and commercial overuse. Your Committee further finds that desalination, the process of removing salt from seawater, offers a promising solution to the freshwater scarcity crisis. This measure requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine the feasibility of desalination for water consumption.

Your Committee notes the concern raised by the Department of Land and Natural Resources that the current level of staffing and resources at the Commission on Water Resources Management is not sufficient to complete the requested desalination study and provide a report to the Legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026. Therefore, your committee respectfully requests that subsequent committees to which this measure is referred consider delaying the report deadline to 2027.

Your Committee has amended this measure by amending its title to better reflect its purpose.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 54, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 54, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* SCR 54	Committee Referral: WTL	Date: 03/21/25
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0

Recommendation:
 Adopted
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**