
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DETERMINE
WHETHER THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE
COMMISSION SHOULD BE AMENDED.

1 WHEREAS, effective and efficient water resource management
2 requires continuous and experienced leadership, especially given
3 the climate crisis and urgent need to properly steward water
4 resources to meet the affordable housing needs of local
5 residents; and

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7 WHEREAS, on December 28, 1994, the Review Commission on the
8 State Water Code submitted its final report to the Legislature
9 pursuant to Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii 1987; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Review Commission determined that amendments
12 to the State Water Code were necessary to enable the Commission
13 on Water Resource Management to more effectively carry out its
14 mandate pursuant to article XI, section 7, of the Hawaii State
15 Constitution to "set overall water conservation, quality and use
16 policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground
17 and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream
18 environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while
19 assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and
20 riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all use of
21 Hawaii's water resources"; and

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23 WHEREAS, further clarification of the Commission on Water
24 Resource Management's purpose, including its leadership
25 structure and composition of the board, will provide greater
26 accountability and protection of the State's waters; now,
27 therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
2 Natural Resources is requested to convene a working group to
3 clarify the purpose of the Commission on Water Resource
4 Management and determine whether the leadership structure and
5 composition of the Commission should be amended; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the working group is requested to:

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9 (1) Recommend a more explicit public trust purpose for the
10 Commission on Water Resource Management;
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12 (2) Recommend whether the Commission on Water Resource
13 Management should be allowed to retain independent
14 counsel;
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16 (3) Recommend whether the position of First Deputy to
17 Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource
18 Management should be repealed;
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20 (4) Determine whether the position of Executive Director
21 of the Commission on Water Resource Management should
22 be established to replace the position of First Deputy
23 to the Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource
24 Management;
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26 (5) Recommend whether the Commission on Water Resource
27 Management should be administratively attached to the
28 Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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30 (6) Recommend which members should be eligible to serve as
31 Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource
32 Management;
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34 (7) Determine whether the Chairperson of Board and Land
35 and Natural Resources and the Director of Health
36 should not be eligible to serve as Chairperson of the
37 Commission on Water Resource Management;
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39 (8) Determine whether entities to whom an emergency order
40 is directed should be authorized to challenge the
41 order under certain conditions;
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(9) Recommend whether the existing notification requirements and contents of declarations of water shortages should be made clearer; and

(10) Determine whether the Commission on Water Resources management should impose harsher fines for certain water use offenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to comprise the following members:

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designee;

(2) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;

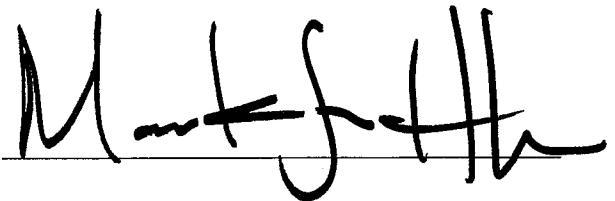
(3) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;

(4) The Director or Manager and Chief Engineer of each county's respective Board or Department of Water Supply or their designees; and

(5) The Mayor of each county or their designees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director of Health, Attorney General, Director or Manager and Chief Engineer of each county Board or Department of Water Supply, and Mayor of each county.

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 7 2025

