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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that limited water  
2 infrastructure is a major barrier to new housing and sustainable  
3 land use in Hawaii. Many properties, whether connected or not  
4 to county water systems, face restrictions that prevent  
5 efficient water use or new development. Rainwater catchment  
6 systems offer a low-cost, sustainable way to supplement water  
7 supply for potable and non-potable uses. Allowing these systems  
8 across all zoning types can reduce strain on public  
9 infrastructure, support local self-sufficiency, and encourage  
10 responsible water management.

11           The purpose of this Act is to:

- 12           (1) Require the counties to allow for the installation and  
13           operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable  
14           and non-potable uses on all properties; and  
15           (2) Authorize the counties to regulate and enforce  
16           standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems.



1       SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2       by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated  
3       and to read as follows:

4       "§46-       Regulation of rainwater catchment systems. (a)

5       Under the authority granted to the counties under  
6       section 46-1.5(13) and (14)(A)(ii), each county shall permit the  
7       installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for  
8       potable and non-potable uses on all properties, regardless of  
9       whether the property is connected to a county water system.

10       (b) The counties shall adopt rules or ordinances for the  
11       regulation and enforcement of rainwater catchment systems, which  
12       include safety, maintenance, design, and backflow prevention  
13       standards to prevent contamination of any public, county, or  
14       private water source.

15       (c) Each county may require registration, inspection, or  
16       notification of rainwater catchment systems where necessary to  
17       protect public health or water quality but shall not  
18       unreasonably restrict or prohibit their use.

19       (d) As used in this section:



1        "County water system" means any public water infrastructure  
2        operated or regulated by a department or board of water supply  
3        of the county.

4        "Rainwater catchment system" means a system designed to  
5        collect and store rainwater from rooftops or other surfaces for  
6        potable and non-potable use, including irrigation, toilet  
7        flushing, cleaning, and landscape watering."

8        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10

INTRODUCED BY:

276

JAN 20 2026



# H.B. NO. 1728

**Report Title:**

Counties; Rainwater Catchment Systems

**Description:**

Requires the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties. Authorizes the counties to regulate and enforce standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems.

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