
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.

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INTRODUCED BY: ZNC

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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