

**ACT 292**

H.B. NO. 1563

A Bill for an Act to Establish a Pilot Program to Create and Test a Model of Water Quality Surveying and Sampling Using Volunteers.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that clean water is essential to sustaining life and has a tremendous impact on the well-being of the State. However, due to limited resources, there has been much public concern regarding the inadequacy of

the current water quality monitoring program administered by the department of health.

The legislature also finds that along with the commitment to protect our surface and coastal waters, there must also come the recognition that our state resources are under great strain and must be utilized with great care. Accordingly, creative efforts that can maximize the rich and varied resources of the State need to be developed and implemented. In this regard, the legislature recognizes that carefully constructed programs which utilize volunteers are being implemented in many areas in the United States and are increasingly cost-effective. These programs also serve as educational alternatives to traditional methods.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages the use of volunteers in water monitoring, and has produced a practical guide, Volunteer Water Monitoring: A Guide for State Managers, to help the states implement volunteer water quality monitoring programs. At least twenty states have implemented volunteer programs.

The EPA report recommends and the legislature finds that a pilot program is a necessary starting point in a carefully designed effort towards better and more efficient water quality monitoring. The legislature therefore finds that the establishment of a pilot volunteer surveying and sampling water program to examine water systems and sources of contamination would be an invaluable investment that could supply necessary water quality monitoring data while providing immediate as well as long term savings.

The legislature further finds that much of the coastal and surface waters draining into and surrounding Kailua and Waimanalo Bays on Oahu meet EPA guidelines for a target location for pilot program establishment. This includes having an available pool of people willing to participate, as well as physical and legal access to the water.

The purpose of this Act is to: (1) empower the department of health to establish a pilot program for surveying and sampling water quality utilizing volunteers at a selected water system in the coastal and surface waters draining into and surrounding Kailua and Waimanalo Bays on Oahu; and (2) provide a report to the legislature on the long-term feasibility and economic benefit of a state-wide volunteer water quality surveying and sampling program.

SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department of health a pilot program to test a model of volunteer water quality surveying and sampling. The target area of the program shall be a water system in the area of the coastal and surface waters draining into and surrounding Kailua and Waimanalo Bays on Oahu. In conjunction with the foregoing, the department of health shall:

- (1) Establish a pilot water quality surveying and sampling program using volunteers to examine one or more watershed systems in the State and possible sources of contamination;
- (2) Determine those aspects of the State's coastal and surface water quality surveying and sampling program that:
  - (A) Can be performed by volunteers; and
  - (B) Will produce meaningful and useful data with regard to monitoring environmental quality;
- (3) Provide for the training of a cadre of volunteers, including the following:
  - (A) Volunteers from one or more environmental organizations with experience in conducting volunteer water quality surveying and sampling programs, such as the Surfrider Foundation and the Isaak Walton League of America;

- (B) Volunteers from educational institutions, such as Windward Community College and the Hawaii Loa campus of Hawaii Pacific University;
  - (C) Volunteers from other interested organizations; and
  - (D) Other interested individuals;
- (4) Provide for the acquisition of surveying and sampling equipment and supplies to carry out the purposes of this Act;
  - (5) Provide for the periodic collection and analysis of samples to evaluate the sampling and monitoring practices of volunteers; and
  - (6) Provide for the acquisition of laboratory, statistical, and other technical services to analyze samples and interpret data.
- (b) The department of health may contract for the services of organizations and laboratories to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- (c) The department of health shall work with the statewide volunteer services office and other agencies and organizations, as may be appropriate, to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- (d) The department of health shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 1994 regular session which documents the effectiveness of the pilot program and the feasibility of implementing additional volunteer water monitoring programs.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$45,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1993-1994, for the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1993.

(Approved June 21, 1993.)