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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO EXPANDED WATER REUSE IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, for centuries, Hawai'i has been blessed with  
2 consistent rainfall, advantageous geology for aquifers, and high  
3 quality drinking water stores; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, recent findings, however, raise concerns about the  
6 long-term fresh water security for the State as the University  
7 of Hawai'i and other scientists have documented troubling trends,  
8 including reduced rainfall, higher evaporation rates, and  
9 declining stream flows, in recent decades; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that rainfall has decreased  
12 twenty-two percent in Hawai'i over the last thirty years, and  
13 while computer models differ markedly in their predictions  
14 regarding precipitation patterns and water availability in  
15 Hawai'i over the coming decades, the unmistakable observed trend  
16 is one of decreasing rainfall and increased incidence of  
17 drought; and  
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19 WHEREAS, if the current trend holds, in 2030, Hawai'i will  
20 receive only three-quarters of the rain that fell in 1985; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, multiple prediction models tend to agree that  
23 regardless of overall rainfall amount, the dry or leeward sides  
24 of the islands, where the bulk of the State's population lives,  
25 will experience reduced rainfall and increased potential  
26 evapotranspiration, which simultaneously creates less supply and  
27 more demand; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, increased runoff and lower aquifer recharge occur  
30 as the State converts open and agricultural land to development,  
31 and rising temperatures mean more evaporation from soil and  
32 surface water; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the State's population has doubled since statehood  
3 and is expected to double again in the next sixty years, which  
4 does not include the more than 200,000 tourists the State hosts  
5 each day; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, along with the projected population rise, these  
8 trends generate a sense of uncertainty and urgency to guard the  
9 State's future water supply, and suggest that Hawai'i is entering  
10 an era of fresh water uncertainty; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, a drier, hotter future has serious consequences  
13 for the long-term availability of freshwater, and therefore the  
14 economic security, of this island state; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water reuse in the State  
17 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative,  
20 organized by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was launched in  
21 2013 to bring multiple, diverse parties together to develop a  
22 forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water  
23 security for the State, and has relied on a blue ribbon advisory  
24 panel of individuals with deep knowledge of water and a  
25 collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a more secure  
26 and sustainable water future based on shared values and  
27 sacrifices; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, unlike other blue ribbon advisory panels that  
30 disband after issuing their reports, members of the Wai Maoli:  
31 Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative have agreed to continue working  
32 together as a Fresh Water Council to help implement  
33 recommendations and are committed to seeing its recommendations  
34 adopted and implemented; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community  
37 Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing water reuse  
38 across the State by thirty million gallons per day by 2030; now,  
39 therefore,

40  
41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
42 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
2 requested to convene a task force to identify barriers and  
3 solutions to expanded water reuse in the State; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
6 the following members:  
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- 8 (1) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health  
9 Administration of the Department of Health, or the  
10 Deputy Director's designee;  
11
- 12 (2) The Chairperson of the Fresh Water Council of Wai  
13 Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative, or the  
14 Chairperson's designee;  
15
- 16 (3) The Environmental Program Director of the Hawai'i  
17 Community Foundation, or the Director's designee;  
18
- 19 (4) A director-level representative, if the representative  
20 is willing to participate, from a county agency with  
21 permitting or implementation authority over water  
22 reuse in that county, to be designated by the Mayor of  
23 that respective county;  
24
- 25 (5) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
26 Committee with subject matter purview over Water and  
27 Land, or the Chairperson's designee;  
28
- 29 (6) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee with subject  
30 matter purview over Water and Land, or the  
31 Chairperson's designee; and  
32
- 33 (7) A representative from the Legislative Reference  
34 Bureau, who shall provide legislative drafting  
35 assistance, if the task force proposes any  
36 legislation; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:  
39

- 40 (1) Collaborate with other federal, state, and county  
41 agencies and private entities;  
42



# H.C.R. NO. 86

- 1           (2) Review findings of how water reuse and gray water
- 2                   regulations are administered in other states,
- 3                   localities, and countries, and assess the feasibility
- 4                   of implementing similar regulations in Hawai'i;
- 5
- 6           (3) Examine proposed language for future regulation or
- 7                   policy changes in Hawai'i; and
- 8
- 9           (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for
- 10                   water reuse in Hawai'i; and
- 11

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to

13 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed

14 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior

15 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

16

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,

19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the

20 Senate, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Mayor of

21 each county, Chairperson of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Council, and

22 President and Chief Executive Office of the Hawai'i Community

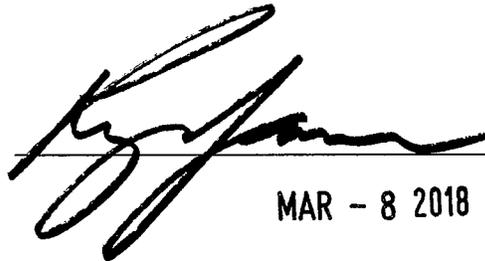
23 Foundation.

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OFFERED BY:



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