
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO
ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF RAINWATER CATCHMENT AND STORAGE SYSTEMS
STATEWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, a rainwater catchment system is based on the
2 collection of rainwater and gravity flow pressure principles;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, generally, in a rainwater catchment system,
6 rainwater is channeled off the roof of a house by rain gutters
7 into a standpipe with spigots at the bottom; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the pressure of the water in the standpipe pushes
10 the water out when the spigots are opened; and
11

12 WHEREAS, however, it is possible to catch rainwater in
13 anything that holds water, such as a barrel; and
14

15 WHEREAS, in some rural areas of Hawaii, there is no
16 municipal water and drilling a well is prohibitively expensive;
17 and
18

19 WHEREAS, it is estimated that as many as sixty thousand
20 Hawaii residents currently depend on rainwater for most, if not
21 all, of their household water needs, including drinking,
22 bathing, washing, flushing, laundry, and gardening; and
23

24 WHEREAS, rainwater catchment systems help reduce the
25 negative environmental impacts of storm water runoff that
26 carries debris and pollutants into the waterways; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in arid areas or during droughts, rainwater
29 catchment systems also provide water for fire emergencies; and
30

31 WHEREAS, considering that most of the State averages over
32 one hundred inches of rain each year, Hawaii is particularly
33 conducive to the use of rainwater catchment systems; and



1
2 WHEREAS, experts at the University of Hawaii, in the
3 Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management of
4 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, have
5 been advising the public on rainwater catchment systems through
6 the Rainwater Catchment System Outreach Program since 2000; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Patricia S. H. Macomber, an educational specialist
9 with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental
10 Management, authored *Guidelines on Rainwater Catchment Systems*
11 *in Hawaii*, to provide best management practices for proper
12 maintenance of rainwater catchment and storage systems to help
13 residents improve the quality of their water supply; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the State should encourage the establishment of
16 rainwater catchment and storage systems statewide; now,
17 therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2008, that the Commission on Water Resource
22 Management is requested to establish a task force to develop a
23 program to increase the number of rainwater catchment and
24 storage systems statewide. In establishing the task force, the
25 Commission is requested to include representation from:
26

- 27 (1) The Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch;
- 28
- 29 (2) The University of Hawaii, College of Tropical
30 Agriculture and Human Resources, Department of Natural
31 Resources and Environmental Management;
- 32
- 33 (3) The University of Hawaii, Department of Microbiology
34 and Water Resources Research Center;
- 35
- 36 (4) The Honolulu Board of Water Supply;
- 37
- 38 (5) The Kauai Department of Water;
- 39
- 40 (6) The Maui Department of Water Supply;
- 41
- 42 (7) The Hawaii Department of Water Supply;
- 43
- 44 (8) The planning department of each county; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

(9) Other interested stakeholders as determined by the Commission on Water Resource Management; and

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

(1) Meet at least monthly; and

(2) Submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to provide any administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support to the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on Water Resource Management, the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chief of the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Health, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, the Manager of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Manager of the Kauai Department of Water, the Director of the Maui Department of Water Supply, the Manager of the Hawaii Department of Water Supply, the Director of the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting, the Director of the Hawaii Planning Department, the Director of the Kauai Department of Planning, and the Director of the Maui Department of Planning.

OFFERED BY:

K. Ho

[Signature]

Tom Bann
[Signature]

[Signature]
[Signature]