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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO AMEND ITS BUILDING CODE TO  
REQUIRE FILTERS AND ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT SYSTEMS IN WATER  
CATCHMENT SYSTEMS THAT ARE INSTALLED IN VOG-IMPACTED AREAS.

1           WHEREAS, on March 12, 2008, a new gas vent broke through  
2 the east wall of Halema'uma'u crater, increasing sulfur dioxide  
3 (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission rates at Kilauea's summit to a record since  
4 measurements were first taken in 1979 from 1,800 to 2,000 tons  
5 per day; and

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7           WHEREAS, in response to these increases in emissions, a  
8 House Special Committee on Vog Effects was created to examine  
9 the effects of vog on the people of Hawaii; and

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11           WHEREAS, one of the concerns raised was the copper leaching  
12 into rain from the roofs on which it falls and then entering and  
13 contaminating water in catchment systems; and

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15           WHEREAS, acid rain caused by the SO<sub>2</sub> in vog leaches lead  
16 from lead-based paint used on roofs, and this leachate then  
17 falls into water catchment systems; and

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19           WHEREAS, while the Department of Health does not recommend  
20 drinking water from water catchment systems, many residents in  
21 vog-impacted areas have few practical alternatives and are  
22 therefore likely to disregard such a recommendation; and

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24           WHEREAS, it is imperative that controls are put in place to  
25 prevent the human consumption of water contaminated by lead and  
26 copper from water catchment systems; and

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28           WHEREAS, while the County of Hawaii requires building  
29 permits to construct all water catchment systems, regardless of  
30 depth or capacity, the Hawaii County building code does not



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1 currently impose any requirements on water catchment systems;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, the use of filters and ultraviolet light systems  
5 to treat water in water catchment systems can greatly improve  
6 water quality by filtering out contaminants and killing certain  
7 pathogens and therefore should be required in catchment systems  
8 used in vog-impacted areas; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the County of Hawaii is  
13 urged to amend its building code to require filters and  
14 ultraviolet light systems in water catchment systems that are  
15 installed in vog-impacted areas; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the County  
19 of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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Mark

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July

JAN 23 2009

