
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UTILIZATION OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN
IRRIGATION TO CONSERVE OUTDOOR WATER USAGE WITHIN THE
LANDSCAPE.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental
2 Protection Agency, landscape irrigation accounts for fifty
3 percent or more of the average household's outdoor water usage;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, poorly maintained or installed irrigation can
7 waste up to fifty percent of water due to inefficient irrigation
8 practices, poor components, or evaporation and runoff; and
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10 WHEREAS, maintaining and installing efficient irrigation
11 systems are some of the most effective ways to reduce waste in
12 drinking water, reduce runoff and sediments, and improve plant
13 health by applying the correct amount of water without exceeding
14 the soil infiltration rate; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's landscape industry is one of the fastest
17 growing and largest segments of the green industry, generating
18 an economic value of over \$520,000,000 annually and full-time
19 employment of over 11,000 landscape professionals; and
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21 WHEREAS, in 1986, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii
22 (LICH) was established as a statewide alliance representing
23 Hawaii's landscape trade associations: Aloha Arborist
24 Association, Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape
25 Architects, Hawaii Association of Nurserymen, Hawaii Island
26 Landscape Association, Hawaii Landscape and Irrigation
27 Contractors, Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals,
28 Kauai Landscape Industry Council, Maui Association of Landscape
29 Professionals, Professional Grounds Management Society, Big
30 Island Association of Nurserymen, Hawaii Professional Gardeners
31 Association, and Hawaii Turfgrass Association; and
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1 WHEREAS, LICH supports water conservation, research and
2 development, and the utilization of best management practices to
3 conserve outdoor water usage within the landscape; and
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5 WHEREAS, LICH supports and encourages best management
6 practices for new installations or major renovations, including:
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- 8 (1) Irrigation system designs, plans, and specifications,
9 which remain on site and require a coverage test prior
10 to acceptance and contain water conservation language;
11
- 12 (2) Particular care in slope plantings to decrease runoff;
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- 14 (3) Systems designed to irrigate similar site, slope, sun
15 exposure, soil conditions, and plant materials with
16 similar water use on the same circuit;
17
- 18 (4) Use of automatic irrigation controllers utilizing
19 either evapotranspiration, weather sensors, or soil
20 moisture sensors, and drip irrigation for individual
21 specimen plants;
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- 23 (5) Use of flow sensors with a malfunction valve shutoff
24 system capability in an irrigation controller and
25 water submeters that measure outdoor water usage on
26 larger sites;
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- 28 (6) Use of water conserving irrigation components and
29 check valves;
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- 31 (7) Incorporation of Low Impact Development storm water
32 design methods including infiltration beds, swales,
33 and basins that allow water to collect and soak into
34 the ground on site;
35
- 36 (8) Preservation of existing native trees and non-invasive
37 vegetation that do not require irrigation;
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- 39 (9) Use of non-potable water sources when available; and
40
- 41 (10) Use of a qualified irrigation designer such as an
42 Irrigation Association-Certified Irrigation Designer,
43 Irrigation Association-Certified Irrigation



1 Contractor, and a maintenance contractor with water
2 conservation expertise; and
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4 WHEREAS, LICH also supports best management practices for
5 maintenance, including:
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- 7 (1) Seasonal adjustments to irrigation systems;
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9 (2) Aeration of lawns when compaction increases, and short
10 run-time cycle irrigation in areas where runoff and
11 ponding occur;
12
13 (3) Periodic practical water audits to review the system
14 components and verify that the components meet the
15 original design criteria for the efficient operation
16 and uniform distribution of water;
17
18 (4) Use of an irrigation controller programmed for long
19 run times to water as deeply, evenly, and infrequently
20 as possible to encourage deep rooting and increased
21 drought resistance;
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23 (5) Use of mulch, organic matter in soils, and drought-
24 tolerant plants or plants that are naturally occurring
25 at the site and surroundings, and allowing grass to
26 grow taller to conserve water; and
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28 (6) Attendance of landscape professionals at water
29 conservation seminars with continuing education units
30 by entities such as the American Water Works
31 Association, LICH, or the Irrigation Association; and
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33 WHEREAS, the resource and financial savings resulting from
34 the effective use of these best management practices would in
35 turn allow the public and private sectors to plant more "main
36 street" trees within our communities to achieve increased
37 livability and sustainability; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
42 encourage the utilization of best management practices in



1 irrigation to conserve outdoor water usage within landscapes;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state and county agencies
5 and other large water users are encouraged to adopt the
6 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii Irrigation Water
7 Conservation Best Management Practices to improve the efficiency
8 of all existing and new landscape irrigation installations
9 through low-cost, practical measures; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LICH continue its efforts
12 to disseminate information in support of water conservation,
13 research and development, and the utilization of best management
14 practices to conserve outdoor water usage within landscapes; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Landscape Industry
18 Council of Hawaii.

