

MAR 06 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING EACH COUNTY TO REEVALUATE AND, IF NECESSARY, UPDATE
ITS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CONSTRUCTION TO MINIMIZE
SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT RUN-OFF.

1 WHEREAS, the construction process often involves the
2 removal of vegetation, the alteration of topography, and the
3 covering of previously vegetated surfaces with impervious cover,
4 including roads, driveways, and buildings; and

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6 WHEREAS, these changes to the landscape may result in the
7 erosion of soil and the sedimentation of water bodies as soil
8 travels in water run-off; and

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10 WHEREAS, petroleum and other chemicals on construction
11 sites may be included in the pollution that drains to water
12 supplies during storm events; and

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14 WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of several storms and
15 erosion and sediment contributions from several projects have a
16 significant effect on water quality and may alter or destroy
17 aquatic habitats and reefs; and

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19 WHEREAS, state waters are a precious resource that provide
20 sustenance to Hawaii's economy and are an essential part of
21 Hawaii's culture and heritage; and

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23 WHEREAS, best management practices are generally effective
24 and involve practical methods of eliminating or reducing the
25 discharge of pollutants from construction sites into state
26 waters; and

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28 WHEREAS, a number of construction projects are meeting best
29 management practices but are nevertheless creating run-off and
30 polluting Hawaii's nearshore waters; and

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S.C.R. NO. 53

1 WHEREAS, the fact that run-off continues to pollute the
2 State's nearshore waters even when best management practices are
3 met indicates that the current best management practices need to
4 be reevaluated and strengthened; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that each county is
9 requested to reevaluate and, if necessary, update its best
10 management practices for construction to minimize soil erosion
11 and sediment run-off that may damage the State's reefs and
12 nearshore waters; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
15 consider best management practices for:

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17 (1) Large scale projects;
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19 (2) Projects on steep slopes; and
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21 (3) Grading and grubbing during winter months, which have
22 increased potential for rain; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are requested to
25 consider the increasing severity of storms and the fact that
26 current best management practices may have been developed when
27 several counties were experiencing extended periods of drought;
28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
31 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
32 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
33 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Planning
 3 and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu; Directors of
 4 Planning for the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; and the
 5 Mayor and the Chairperson of the Council of each county.

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