
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. As an island state, Hawaii has limited access
2 to natural fresh water. Competition for fresh water, increasing
3 population and development pressures, the rising awareness of
4 environmental and cultural water needs, and the impacts of
5 climate change require that Hawaii become as efficient as
6 possible in its uses of limited fresh water supplies. The
7 legislature finds that a water conservation program that
8 provides financial assistance to county-owned public water
9 systems and their customers to help implement water conservation
10 measures and practices will reduce water use or waste. County-
11 owned public water systems supply approximately two hundred
12 million gallons per day or eighty per cent of drinking water in
13 Hawaii.

14 SECTION 2. There is established within the commission on
15 water resource management a two-year water conservation
16 financial assistance pilot program to provide financial



1 assistance to county-owned public water systems to implement
2 their respective water conservation incentive programs.

3 SECTION 3. As used in this Act:

4 "Commission" means the commission on water resource
5 management.

6 "Public water system" has the same meaning as that term is
7 defined in section 340E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 "Water conserving technologies" means equipment,
9 appliances, and supplies that materially and predictably reduce
10 potable water use as determined by the commission and may
11 include rain barrels and cisterns, hot water circulation pumps,
12 soil moisture sensors, smart irrigation controllers, turf grass
13 replacement, air conditioning condensate capture, multi-unit
14 water sub-meters, WaterSense labeled water saving products,
15 high-efficiency toilets, grey-water systems, and other devices,
16 apparatus, or materials as determined and approved by the
17 commission on water resource management.

18 SECTION 4. The commission shall:

19 (1) Solicit proposals from county-owned public water
20 systems describing their proposed water conservation
21 incentive programs;



- 1 (2) Ensure that county-owned public water systems
2 administer and manage their water conservation
3 incentive programs and furnish information to the
4 commission documenting the total estimated amount of
5 water conserved under this program;
- 6 (3) Prioritize awards pursuant to this section for county-
7 owned public water systems where state funds are
8 matched or leveraged with non-state funds; and
- 9 (4) Provide financial assistance pursuant to this section
10 to county-owned public water systems on a reimbursable
11 basis through contracts or agreements.

12 Reimbursements made pursuant to this Act shall not exceed
13 fifty per cent of the total cost of each county water
14 conservation incentive program, including administrative costs.

15 SECTION 5. A county-owned public water system water
16 conservation incentive program may include:

- 17 (1) Rebate programs where county-owned public water
18 systems refund customers no more than fifty per cent
19 of the cost to install water conserving technologies
20 in residential, commercial, institutional, or
21 industrial settings; and



1 (2) Direct replacement programs where county-owned public
2 water systems pay for the total cost to install water
3 conserving technologies for customers in residential,
4 commercial, institutional, or industrial settings.

5 SECTION 6. To evaluate a program's effectiveness, the
6 commission shall:

7 (1) Review the county-owned public water system water
8 conservation incentive programs and determine the
9 amount of non-state matching funds;

10 (2) Determine the impact of the county-owned public water
11 system water conservation incentive programs on water
12 conservation in terms of water saved; and

13 (3) Report on the water conservation financial assistance
14 program.

15 The commission shall submit a report of its findings to the
16 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 the regular session of 2019.

18 SECTION 7. Contractors and other third parties who receive
19 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by
20 the department of land and natural resources, the attorney
21 general, or the auditor. Upon request by such agencies, the



1 contractor or third party shall be required to submit for review
2 all files, records, documents, and accounting related to the use
3 and expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Act, whether
4 the funds were received via contract, grant, or other agreement.

5 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the
6 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
9 two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the commission
11 on water resource management for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
13 shall be repealed on June 30, 2019.



Report Title:

Water Conservation Rebate Program

Description:

Establishes a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems. (HB636 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

