

JAN 20 2017

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# 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 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 SECTION 3. To carry out the purposes of this Act, the  
9 commission shall:

10 (1) Solicit proposals from county-owned public water  
11 systems describing their proposed water conservation  
12 incentive programs;

13 (2) Ensure that county-owned public water systems  
14 administer and manage their water conservation  
15 incentive programs and furnish information to the  
16 commission documenting the total estimated amount of  
17 water conserved under this program;

18 (3) Prioritize awards pursuant to this section for county-  
19 owned public water systems where state funds are  
20 matched or leveraged with non-state funds; and



1 (4) Provide financial assistance pursuant to this section  
2 to county-owned public water systems on a reimbursable  
3 basis through contracts or agreements.

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

7 SECTION 4. A county-owned public water system water  
8 conservation incentive program may include:

9 (1) Rebate programs where county-owned public water  
10 systems refund customers no more than fifty per cent  
11 of the cost to install water conserving technologies  
12 in residential, commercial, institutional, or  
13 industrial settings; and

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

18 As used in this section, "water conserving technologies"  
19 means equipment, appliances, and supplies that materially and  
20 predictably reduce potable water use as determined by the  
21 commission and may include rain barrels and cisterns, hot water



1 circulation pumps, soil moisture sensors, smart irrigation  
2 controllers, turf grass replacement, air conditioning condensate  
3 capture, multi-unit water sub-meters, WaterSense® labeled water  
4 saving products, high-efficiency toilets, grey-water systems,  
5 and other devices, apparatus, or materials as determined and  
6 approved by the commission on water resource management.

7 SECTION 5. In order to evaluate a program's effectiveness,  
8 the commission shall:

- 9 (1) Review the county-owned public water system water  
10 conservation incentive programs and determine the  
11 amount of non-state matching funds;
- 12 (2) Determine the impact of the county-owned public water  
13 system water conservation incentive programs on water  
14 conservation in terms of water saved; and
- 15 (3) Make a recommendation to the legislature on whether  
16 funding for the water conservation financial  
17 assistance program should be expanded, extended, or  
18 discontinued.

19 The commission shall submit a report of its findings and  
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the regular session of 2019.

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

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

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017, and  
12 shall be repealed on June 30, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Karl Rhoads*



# S.B. NO. 635

**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.

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

