
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO EXPANDED WATER REUSE IN
THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, for centuries, Hawai'i has been blessed with
2 consistent rainfall, advantageous geology for aquifers, and high
3 quality drinking water stores; and
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5 WHEREAS, recent findings, however, raise concerns about the
6 long-term fresh water security for the State as members of the
7 scientific community, including the University of Hawai'i, have
8 documented troubling trends, including reduced rainfall, higher
9 evaporation rates, and declining stream flows, in recent
10 decades; and
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12 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that rainfall has decreased
13 twenty-two percent in Hawai'i over the last thirty years, and
14 while computer models differ markedly in their predictions
15 regarding precipitation patterns and water availability in
16 Hawai'i over the coming decades, the unmistakable observed trend
17 is one of decreasing rainfall and increased incidence of
18 drought; and
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20 WHEREAS, if the current trend holds, in 2030, Hawai'i will
21 receive only three-quarters of the rain that fell in 1985; and
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23 WHEREAS, multiple prediction models tend to agree that
24 regardless of overall rainfall amount, the dry or leeward sides
25 of the islands, where the bulk of the State's population lives,
26 will experience reduced rainfall and increased potential
27 evapotranspiration, which simultaneously creates less supply and
28 more demand; and
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1 WHEREAS, increased runoff and lower aquifer recharge occur
2 as the State converts open and agricultural land to development,
3 and rising temperatures mean more evaporation from soil and
4 surface water; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State's population has doubled since statehood
7 and is expected to double again in the next sixty years, which
8 does not include the average daily presence of more than 200,000
9 visitors each day and over 9,000,000 visitors each year; and

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11 WHEREAS, along with the projected population rise, these
12 trends generate a sense of uncertainty and urgency to safeguard
13 the State's future water supply, and suggest that Hawai'i is
14 entering an era of fresh water uncertainty; and

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16 WHEREAS, a drier, hotter future has serious consequences
17 for the long-term availability of freshwater, and therefore the
18 economic security, of this island state; and

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20 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water reuse in the State
21 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and

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23 WHEREAS, water reuse is generally understood to mean the
24 use of treated wastewater (or recycled water), gray water, and
25 water from other alternate sources, such as stormwater or
26 rainwater, for non-potable uses, including but not limited to
27 agricultural and landscape irrigation, toilet flushing,
28 industrial processes, and replenishing a ground water basin
29 (often referred to as ground water recharge); and

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31 WHEREAS, water reuse initiatives are applicable and
32 relevant to the entire State because water scarcity will
33 negatively impact all communities; and

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35 WHEREAS, Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative,
36 organized by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was launched in
37 2013 to bring multiple, diverse parties together to develop a
38 forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water
39 security for the State, and has relied on a blue ribbon advisory
40 panel of individuals with deep knowledge of water and a
41 collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a more secure
42 and sustainable water future based on shared values and
43 sacrifices; and



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WHEREAS, unlike other blue ribbon advisory panels that disband after issuing their reports, members of the Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative have agreed to continue working together as a Fresh Water Council to help implement recommendations and are committed to seeing its recommendations adopted and implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing water reuse across the State by thirty million gallons per day by 2030; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a task force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water reuse in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health Administration of the Department of Health, or the Deputy Director's designee;
- (2) The Chairperson of the Fresh Water Council of Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (4) A member of the Commission on Water Resource Management other than the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
- (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (6) The Environmental Program Director of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, or the Director's designee;



- 1 (7) A representative from a public agency with permitting
2 or implementation authority over wastewater;
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- 4 (8) A director-level representative, if the representative
5 is willing to participate, from a county agency with
6 permitting or implementation authority over water
7 reuse in that county, to be designated by the Mayor of
8 that respective county;
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- 10 (9) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
11 Committee with subject matter purview over Water and
12 Land, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 14 (10) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee with subject
15 matter purview over Water and Land, or the
16 Chairperson's designee; and
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- 18 (11) A representative from the Legislative Reference
19 Bureau, who shall provide legislative drafting
20 assistance, if the task force proposes any
21 legislation; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 25 (1) Collaborate with other federal, state, and county
26 agencies and private entities;
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- 28 (2) Review findings of how water reuse and gray water
29 regulations are administered in other states,
30 localities, and countries, and assess the feasibility
31 of implementing similar regulations in Hawai'i;
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- 33 (3) Examine proposed language for future regulation or
34 policy changes in Hawai'i; and
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- 36 (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for
37 water reuse in Hawai'i; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
40 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
41 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
42 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
4 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, President of the Senate, Director of the
6 Legislative Reference Bureau, Mayor of each county, Chairperson
7 of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Council, and President and Chief
8 Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

