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# SENATE 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 the University  
7 of Hawai'i and other scientists have documented troubling trends,  
8 including reduced rainfall, higher evaporation rates, and  
9 declining stream flows, in recent decades; and  
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11 WHEREAS, evidence suggests that rainfall has decreased  
12 twenty-two percent in Hawai'i over the last thirty years, and  
13 while computer models differ markedly in their predictions  
14 regarding precipitation patterns and water availability in  
15 Hawai'i over the coming decades, the unmistakable observed trend  
16 is one of decreasing rainfall and increased incidence of  
17 drought; and  
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19 WHEREAS, if the current trend holds, in 2030, Hawai'i will  
20 receive only three-quarters of the rain that fell in 1985; and  
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22 WHEREAS, multiple prediction models tend to agree that  
23 regardless of overall rainfall amount, the dry or leeward sides  
24 of the islands, where the bulk of the State's population lives,  
25 will experience reduced rainfall and increased potential  
26 evapotranspiration, which simultaneously creates less supply and  
27 more demand; and  
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29 WHEREAS, increased runoff and lower aquifer recharge occur  
30 as the State converts open and agricultural land to development,



1 and rising temperatures mean more evaporation from soil and  
2 surface water; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the State's population has doubled since statehood  
5 and is expected to double again in the next sixty years, which  
6 does not include the more than 200,000 tourists the State hosts  
7 each day; and  
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9 WHEREAS, along with the projected population rise, these  
10 trends generate a sense of uncertainty and urgency to guard the  
11 State's future water supply, and suggest that Hawai'i is entering  
12 an era of fresh water uncertainty; and  
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14 WHEREAS, a drier, hotter future has serious consequences  
15 for the long-term availability of freshwater, and therefore the  
16 economic security, of this island state; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water reuse in the State  
19 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and  
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21 WHEREAS, water reuse is generally understood to mean the  
22 use of treated wastewater (or recycled water), gray water, and  
23 water from other alternate sources, such as stormwater or  
24 rainwater, for non-potable uses, including but not limited to  
25 agricultural and landscape irrigation, toilet flushing,  
26 industrial processes, and replenishing a ground water basin  
27 (often referred to as ground water recharge); and  
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29 WHEREAS, water reuse initiatives are applicable and  
30 relevant to the entire State; and  
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32 WHEREAS, Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative,  
33 organized by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was launched in  
34 2013 to bring multiple, diverse parties together to develop a  
35 forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water  
36 security for the State, and has relied on a blue ribbon advisory  
37 panel of individuals with deep knowledge of water and a  
38 collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a more secure  
39 and sustainable water future based on shared values and  
40 sacrifices; and  
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1 WHEREAS, unlike other blue ribbon advisory panels that  
2 disband after issuing their reports, members of the Wai Maoli:  
3 Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative have agreed to continue working  
4 together as a Fresh Water Council to help implement  
5 recommendations and are committed to seeing its recommendations  
6 adopted and implemented; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community  
9 Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing water reuse  
10 across the State by thirty million gallons per day by 2030; now,  
11 therefore,  
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
16 Health is requested to convene a task force to identify barriers  
17 and solutions to expanded water reuse in the State; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
20 the following members:  
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- 22 (1) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health  
23 Administration of the Department of Health, or the  
24 Deputy Director's designee;  
25
- 26 (2) The Chairperson of the Fresh Water Council of Wai  
27 Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative, or the  
28 Chairperson's designee;  
29
- 30 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
31 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;  
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- 33 (4) A member of the Commission on Water Resource  
34 Management other than the Chairperson of the Board of  
35 Land and Natural Resources;  
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- 37 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the  
38 Chairperson's designee;  
39
- 40 (6) The Environmental Program Director of the Hawai'i  
41 Community Foundation, or the Director's designee;  
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- 1 (7) A director-level representative, if the representative
- 2 is willing to participate, from a county agency with
- 3 permitting or implementation authority over water
- 4 reuse in that county, to be designated by the Mayor of
- 5 that respective county;
- 6
- 7 (8) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
- 8 Committee with subject matter purview over Water and
- 9 Land, or the Chairperson's designee;
- 10
- 11 (9) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee with subject
- 12 matter purview over Water and Land, or the
- 13 Chairperson's designee; and
- 14
- 15 (10) A representative from the Legislative Reference
- 16 Bureau, who shall provide legislative drafting
- 17 assistance, if the task force proposes any
- 18 legislation; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 22 (1) Collaborate with other federal, state, and county
- 23 agencies and private entities;
- 24
- 25 (2) Review findings of how water reuse and gray water
- 26 regulations are administered in other states,
- 27 localities, and countries, and assess the feasibility
- 28 of implementing similar regulations in Hawai'i;
- 29
- 30 (3) Examine proposed language for future regulation or
- 31 policy changes in Hawai'i; and
- 32
- 33 (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for
- 34 water reuse in Hawai'i; and
- 35

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

40  
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,



1 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
2 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives, President of the Senate, Director of the  
4 Legislative Reference Bureau, Mayor of each county, Chairperson  
5 of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Council, and President and Chief  
6 Executive Office of the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

