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

15 WHEREAS, increasing the amount of water reuse in the State
16 will alleviate pressure on fresh drinking water supplies; and
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18 WHEREAS, water reuse is generally understood to mean the
19 use of treated wastewater (or recycled water), gray water, and
20 water from other alternate sources, such as stormwater or
21 rainwater, for non-potable uses, including but not limited to
22 agricultural and landscape irrigation, toilet flushing,
23 industrial processes, and replenishing a ground water basin
24 (often referred to as ground water recharge); and
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26 WHEREAS, water reuse initiatives are applicable and
27 relevant to the entire State; and
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29 WHEREAS, Wai Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative,
30 organized by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, was launched in
31 2013 to bring multiple, diverse parties together to develop a
32 forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water
33 security for the State, and has relied on a blue ribbon advisory
34 panel of individuals with deep knowledge of water and a
35 collaborative spirit to articulate a vision for a more secure
36 and sustainable water future based on shared values and
37 sacrifices; and
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39 WHEREAS, unlike other blue ribbon advisory panels that
40 disband after issuing their reports, members of the Wai Maoli:
41 Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative have agreed to continue working
42 together as a Fresh Water Council to help implement



1 recommendations and are committed to seeing its recommendations
2 adopted and implemented; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community
5 Foundation are dedicated to the goal of increasing water reuse
6 across the State by thirty million gallons per day by 2030; now,
7 therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
11 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a task
12 force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water reuse
13 in the State; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
16 the following members:
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- 18 (1) The Deputy Director for Environmental Health
19 Administration of the Department of Health, or the
20 Deputy Director's designee;
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- 22 (2) The Chairperson of the Fresh Water Council of Wai
23 Maoli: Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative, or the
24 Chairperson's designee;
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- 26 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
27 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 29 (4) A member of the Commission on Water Resource
30 Management other than the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Land and Natural Resources;
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- 33 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
34 Chairperson's designee;
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- 36 (6) The Environmental Program Director of the Hawai'i
37 Community Foundation, or the Director's designee;
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- 39 (7) A representative from a public agency with permitting
40 or implementation authority over wastewater;
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- 1 (8) 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;
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- 7 (9) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
- 8 Committee with subject matter purview over Water and
- 9 Land, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 11 (10) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee with subject
- 12 matter purview over Water and Land, or the
- 13 Chairperson's designee; and
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- 15 (11) 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
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- 33 (4) Identify and rank potential demonstration projects for
- 34 water reuse in Hawai'i; and
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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

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



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

