
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a wide range of geological issues,
2 including coastal erosion, limited ground and surface water,
3 rock falls and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,
4 depleted rock aggregate resources, and geothermal energy; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's activities related to these geological
7 issues are spread among a variety of state and county agencies,
8 such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission
9 on Water Resource Management and Office of Conservation and
10 Coastal Lands, the Department of Health, and the county water
11 supply departments; and
12

13 WHEREAS, these state and county agencies serve specific
14 purposes for their respective agencies, potentially leaving gaps
15 in efforts to collect and analyze geologic data on issues of
16 importance to the State such as geologic hazards, including but
17 not limited to earthquakes, coastal erosion and flooding, flash
18 flooding, rock falls, landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism,
19 and geologic resources, including but not limited to
20 groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying, sand and gravel mining,
21 geothermal energy, reef management, wetland and dune management,
22 and beach and shoreline management; and
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24 WHEREAS, many mainland states have a geological survey, a
25 state agency that creates, interprets, and disseminates applied
26 earth science information to address societal needs; and
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only two states that have never
29 received federal funds to perform geological studies; and
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31 WHEREAS, a Hawaii state geological survey could compete for
32 such federal funds and provide a broader range of geological
33 information; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
4 Bureau is requested to conduct a study on establishing a
5 geological survey in Hawaii; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
8 study include:
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- 10 (1) Identification of the needs or problems, if any, to be
11 addressed by a state geological survey;
- 12
13 (2) Identification of existing resources and how those
14 resources are being utilized compared to a typical
15 geological survey agency in other states;
- 16
17 (3) Identification of potential sources for additional
18 funding, staff, or other resources;
- 19
20 (4) Research into mainland states' geological surveys,
21 their purpose, histories, funding, and other pertinent
22 information;
- 23
24 (5) Identification of alternative forms that may satisfy
25 any unmet needs, including but not limited to
26 consolidating existing geologist positions under a
27 single entity and seeking to expand the United States
28 Geological Survey's Hawaii office;
- 29
30 (6) Identification of strengths and weaknesses of
31 different alternatives; and
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- 33 (7) Recommendations as to whether a geological survey
34 should be established in Hawaii and potential issues
35 that would need to be addressed; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
38 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to consult with the
39 following individuals, organizations, and interest groups:
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- 41 (1) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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43 (2) Department of Health;
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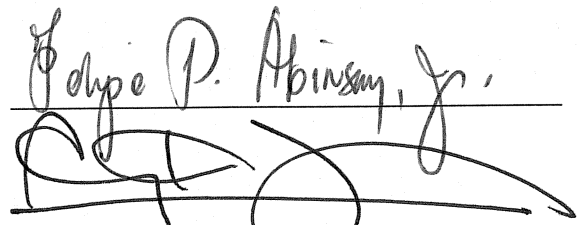


- 1 (3) County water supply departments;
- 2
- 3 (4) University of Hawaii;
- 4
- 5 (5) United States Geological Survey; and
- 6
- 7 (6) Any other organizations or persons that the
- 8 Legislative Reference Bureau deems appropriate; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 11 Bureau is requested to submit a report of any findings and
 12 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
 13 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

14
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
 17 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of
 18 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Health,
 19 the mayor and council chairperson of each county, the director
 20 of each county's water supply agency, the President of the
 21 University of Hawaii, and the Director of the Hawaii Office of
 22 the United States Geological Survey.

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25 OFFERED BY:

George P. Abinsay, Jr.


MAR 15 2006

