
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INSPECT ALL DAMS IN THE STATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY DAMS THAT ARE IN IMMINENT OR SHORT-TERM DANGER OF FAILURE.

1 WHEREAS, in a recent March 2005 study, the American Society
2 of Civil Engineers found that of the approximately one hundred
3 thirty dams in the State, twenty-two were classified as "high
4 hazard", not necessarily because of the danger of imminent
5 failure, but due to structural and functional deficiencies and
6 because of their precarious location that could cause massive
7 loss of lives and property; and

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9 WHEREAS, this prescient study becomes much more pertinent
10 due to the recent catastrophic failure of the Kaloko Reservoir
11 on the island of Kauai and the resultant loss of lives and
12 property; and

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14 WHEREAS, it should be noted that the Kaloko Reservoir was
15 not even among the dams that was rated "high hazard"; and

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17 WHEREAS, other high hazard dams cited include the Nuuanu
18 Reservoir and the Wahiawa Dam on the island of Oahu, both of
19 which would result in massive loss of lives and property damage
20 in the event of failure; and

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22 WHEREAS, when asked what the State had done prior the
23 Kaloko disaster to boost the State's dam safety program, the
24 Governor is quoted as stating "Nothing that I'm aware of;" now,
25 therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
30 Natural Resources, with the assistance of the Department of
31 Defense, is urged to immediately inspect every dam in the State



1 to assess whether any dams are in imminent or short-term danger
2 of failure; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Land and Natural
5 Resources and Department of Defense are urged to take immediate
6 emergency action, including the dismantling and removal of any
7 dams that are in imminent danger of failure; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
10 Natural Resources is requested to file an interim report to the
11 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the conclusion
12 of the 2006 Regular Session, of its findings and recommendations
13 regarding its inspection and assessment of the State's dams; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
16 Natural Resources is requested to submit a final report of its
17 findings and any recommendations, including any proposed
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
23 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the
24 Director of Civil Defense.
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