
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES AND THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY OWNED DAMS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there are more than one hundred thirty dams,
2 privately and publicly owned, throughout the State of Hawaii;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, many of these dams are earthen dams, built in the
6 1800's by the sugar plantations to retain irrigation water in
7 reservoirs; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the American Society of Civil
10 Engineers, there are fifty-seven dams in the State that are
11 classified "high hazard" due to their proximity to urban areas
12 that would cause loss of life and significant property damage,
13 but these dams have no deficiencies that raise safety concerns;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, at least twenty-two dams in the State have
17 deficiencies that raise safety concerns and that twenty of those
18 dams are classified as "high hazard"; and

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20 WHEREAS, the catastrophic failure of Kaloko Reservoir dam
21 on Kauai on March 14, 2006, has caused the loss of lives and
22 millions of dollars in property damage; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Chairperson of the
27 Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Adjutant General are
28 requested to conduct a study of all dams, publicly and privately
29 owned, in the State of Hawaii; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
32 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the



1 Adjutant General are requested to determine and include but not
2 be limited to:

- 3 (1) The ownership of all dams;
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- 5 (2) The condition of each dam, noting any deficiencies;
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- 8 (3) The estimated damage that may be incurred if the dam
- 9 were to fail;
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- 11 (4) An action plan to address the maintenance of all dams;
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- 13 (5) An action plan to address the repair and restoration
- 14 of dams with deficiencies that raises safety concerns
- 15 and are classified as "high hazard"; and
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- 17 (6) A determination of what course of action the State
- 18 must take if the owner of a dam refuses to repair or
- 19 restore a private dam as directed by a state agency;
- 20 and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Land and Natural Resources and the Adjutant General are
24 requested to submit their findings and recommendations to the
25 Legislature, including any proposed legislation, at least twenty
26 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
30 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the
31 Adjutant General.
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OFFERED BY:

Kiril Caldwell
Michael P. Calichman
Tony Wate

Kan Ho
Michael J. McGroarty

Paul Chong
Veronica Brown
Calvin K. Amy
Myra R. Edwards