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# HOUSE 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, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, with  
30 the assistance of the Department of Defense, is urged to  
31 immediately inspect every dam in the State to assess whether any  
32 dams are in imminent or short-term danger of failure; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Land and Natural  
2 Resources and Department of Defense are urged to take immediate  
3 emergency action, including the dismantling and removal of any  
4 dams that are in imminent danger of failure; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
7 Natural Resources is requested to file an interim report to the  
8 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the conclusion  
9 of the 2006 Regular Session, of its findings and recommendations  
10 regarding its inspection and assessment of the State's dams; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
13 Natural Resources is requested to submit a final report of its  
14 findings and any recommendations, including any proposed  
15 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
16 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
20 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Director of  
21 Civil Defense.

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Sources OFFERED BY: Marked G. Mays  
Am. C. Crakak Ch. 2 - Mark B. Lee  
Bob Ken A. Fyle B. Berg  
Michael P. Kahikina John B. Krumm  
Mele Carroll PT  
Kameo Tuma Jan South  
ALCO