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## HOUSE 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, that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
27 Resources and the Adjutant General are requested to conduct a  
28 study of all dams, publicly and privately owned, in the State of  
29 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  
33 Adjutant General are requested to determine and include but not  
34 be limited to:  
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- 1 (1) The ownership of all dams;
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- 3 (2) The condition of each dam, noting any deficiencies;
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- 5 (3) The estimated damage that may be incurred if the dam
- 6 were to fail;
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- 8 (4) An action plan to address the maintenance of all dams;
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- 10 (5) An action plan to address the repair and restoration
- 11 of dams with deficiencies that raises safety concerns
- 12 and are classified as "high hazard"; and
- 13
- 14 (6) A determination of what course of action the State
- 15 must take if the owner of a dam refuses to repair or
- 16 restore a private dam as directed by a state agency;
- 17 and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
 20 Land and Natural Resources and the Adjutant General are  
 21 requested to submit their findings and recommendations to the  
 22 Legislature, including any proposed legislation, at least twenty  
 23 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
 27 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Adjutant  
 28 General.  
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