
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 130 dams, privately and
2 publicly owned, throughout the State of Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, many of these dams are earthen dams, built in the
5 1800s by the sugar plantations to retain irrigation water in
6 reservoirs; and
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8 WHEREAS, according to the American Society of Civil
9 Engineers, there are 57 dams in the state that are classified
10 "high hazard" due to their proximity to urban areas that would
11 cause loss of life and significant property damage, but these
12 dams have no deficiencies that raise safety concerns; and
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14 WHEREAS, at least 22 dams in the state have deficiencies
15 that raise safety concerns and that 20 of those dams are
16 classified as "high hazard"; and
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18 WHEREAS, the catastrophic failure of Kaloko Reservoir dam
19 on Kauai on March 14, 2006, has caused the loss of lives and
20 millions of dollars in property damage; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2006, that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
25 Resources (BLNR) and the Adjutant General are requested to
26 conduct a study of all dams, publicly and privately owned, in
27 the State of Hawaii; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
30 Chairperson of BLNR and the Adjutant General are requested to
31 determine and include but not be limited to:
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33 (1) The ownership of all dams;

34 (2) The condition of each dam, noting any deficiencies;
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- 2 (3) The estimated damage that may be incurred if the dam
- 3 were to fail;
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- 5 (4) An action plan to address the maintenance of all dams;
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- 7 (5) An action plan to address the repair and restoration
- 8 of dams with deficiencies that raise safety concerns
- 9 and that are classified as "high hazard";
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- 11 (6) An appropriate fee schedule for the costs of the
- 12 improvements with the private dam owner to bear the
- 13 inspections costs either through their own consultant
- 14 or to reimburse the State through the State's
- 15 consultants; and
- 16
- 17 (7) 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

21 and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of BLNR and the
24 Adjutant General are requested to submit their findings and
25 recommendations to the Legislature, including any proposed
26 legislation, at least 20 days prior to the convening of the
27 Regular Session of 2007; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
31 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Adjutant
33 General.

