

MAR 15 2006

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE GEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a wide range of geological issues,  
2 including coastal erosion, limited ground and surface water,  
3 rock falls and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,  
4 depleted rock aggregate resources, and geothermal energy; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, Hawaii's activities related to these geological  
7 issues are spread among a variety of state and county agencies,  
8 such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission  
9 on Water Resource Management and Office of Conservation and  
10 Coastal Lands, the Department of Health, and the county water  
11 supply departments; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, these state and county agencies serve specific  
14 purposes for their respective agencies, potentially leaving gaps  
15 in efforts to collect and analyze geologic data on issues of  
16 importance to the State such as geologic hazards, including but  
17 not limited to earthquakes, coastal erosion and flooding, flash  
18 flooding, rock falls, landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism,  
19 and geologic resources, including but not limited to  
20 groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying, sand and gravel mining,  
21 geothermal energy, reef management, wetland and dune management,  
22 and beach and shoreline management; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, many mainland states have a geological survey, a  
25 state agency that creates, interprets, and disseminates applied  
26 earth science information to address societal needs; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only two states that have never  
29 received federal funds to perform geological studies; and  
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31           WHEREAS, a Hawaii state geological survey could compete for  
32 such federal funds and provide a broader range of geological  
33 information; now, therefore,  
34



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
4 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on establishing  
5 a geological survey in Hawaii; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the  
8 study include:

- 9  
10 (1) Identification of the needs or problems, if any, to be  
11 addressed by a state geological survey;  
12  
13 (2) Identification of existing resources and how those  
14 resources are being utilized compared to a typical  
15 geological survey agency in other states;  
16  
17 (3) Identification of potential sources for additional  
18 funding, staff, or other resources;  
19  
20 (4) Research into mainland states' geological surveys,  
21 their purpose, histories, funding, and other pertinent  
22 information;  
23  
24 (5) Identification of alternative forms that may satisfy  
25 any unmet needs, including but not limited to  
26 consolidating existing geologist positions under a  
27 single entity and seeking to expand the United States  
28 Geological Survey's Hawaii office;  
29  
30 (6) Identification of strengths and weaknesses of  
31 different alternatives; and  
32  
33 (7) Recommendations as to whether a geological survey  
34 should be established in Hawaii and potential issues  
35 that would need to be addressed; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the  
38 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to consult with the  
39 following individuals, organizations, and interest groups:

- 40  
41 (1) Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
42  
43 (2) Department of Health;  
44



- 1 (3) County water supply departments;
- 2
- 3 (4) University of Hawaii;
- 4
- 5 (5) United States Geological Survey; and
- 6
- 7 (6) Any other organizations or persons that the
- 8 Legislative Reference Bureau deems appropriate; and
- 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
 11 Bureau is requested to submit a report of any findings and  
 12 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
 13 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

14  
 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
 17 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of  
 18 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Health,  
 19 the mayor and council chairperson of each county, the director  
 20 of each county's water supply agency, the President of the  
 21 University of Hawaii, and the Director of the Hawaii Office of  
 22 the United States Geological Survey.

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