

MAR 15 2006

SENATE 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

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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,

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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006 that



1 the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study
2 on establishing a geological survey in Hawaii; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
5 study include:

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

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38 (1) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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40 (2) Department of Health;
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42 (3) County water supply departments;
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44 (4) University of Hawaii;



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- 2 (5) United States Geological Survey; and
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- 4 (6) Any other organizations or persons that the
- 5 Legislative Reference Bureau deems appropriate; and
- 6

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

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

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