

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO IMPLEMENT XERISCAPING
TO DECORATE ROADWAYS, MEDIAL STRIPS, ROUNDABOUTS AND OTHER
AREAS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

1 WHEREAS, water is our most precious natural resource and
2 cannot be considered limitless; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the conservation of water is necessary not just in
5 times of drought, but in anticipation of Hawaii's future
6 population growth; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the variety of vegetation found in Hawaii reflects
9 the islands' wide range of microclimates from tropical forest to
10 deserts; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the goal of xeriscaping is to create a visually
13 attractive landscape by using drought-tolerant plants and
14 grasses in combination with irrigation techniques; and

15
16 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is not to be confused with zero-
17 scaping which uses mainly plants found in the desert such as
18 juniper, cactus, or yucca; and

19
20 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is considered more aesthetically
21 pleasing; and

22
23 WHEREAS, native Hawaiian flora such a Piligrass
24 (heteropogon contortus), Sandalwood (santaum freycinetianum),
25 and Dwarf Naupaka (scaevola coriacea) can be utilized for
26 xeriscaping; and

27
28 WHEREAS, a properly maintained xeriscape can easily use
29 less than one-half the water of a traditional landscape; and

30
31 WHEREAS, a xeriscaped area not only reduces the amount of
32 water used compared to traditional landscapes, but also reduces
33 the amount of maintenance needed for watering, fertilizing,
34 mowing, trimming, and pruning; and



1 WHEREAS, planted areas established by the Department of
2 Transportation have failed to receive regular maintenance and
3 after a few years become unsightly;
4

5 WHEREAS, xeriscaping is ideally suited for the needs of the
6 Department of Transportation and would provide aesthetic,
7 economic, and environmental benefits for the Department and the
8 State; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
12 that the Department of Transportation is urged to implement
13 xeriscaping to decorate roadways, medial strips, and
14 roundabouts, and other areas under its jurisdiction; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
17 Transportation is also urged to use suitable indigenous
18 vegetation in future xeriscaping projects; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of
22 Transportation.
23
24
25

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakuma

