
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 122, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 1961, stated as policy:

3 To meet the growing need for domestic, municipal,
4 agricultural and industrial uses, it is necessary that
5 the groundwater resources of the State be put to
6 beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are
7 capable, that the threat of exhaustion, depletion,
8 waste, pollution or deterioration by salt
9 encroachment, and the unreasonable method of
10 diversion, withdrawal or use of groundwater resources
11 be prevented and that the supply and quality of such
12 water resources be protected, conserved and controlled
13 to assure their reasonable and beneficial use in the
14 interest of the people of the State.

15 The legislature further finds that, in the 1980s, the
16 department of land and natural resources, along with
17 hydrologists from the University of Hawaii, developed a model to
18 determine the sustainable yields for groundwater aquifers in



1 Hawaii. In some cases, however, the sustainable yields
2 predicted by the model did not correlate to the conditions in
3 the aquifer that were actually observed.

4 The legislature further finds that major revisions have
5 been made to the sustainable yield estimates of certain aquifers
6 as new data have become available. Because the sustainable
7 yield estimates are the official estimates that are used for
8 regulatory, planning, and development purposes, it is vital that
9 these estimates reflect information and interpretations from
10 nongovernmental as well as governmental sources of information.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish a sustainable yield
12 advisory committee to the commission on water resource
13 management to review interpretations of data and add input using
14 additional data from nongovernmental sources on the sustainable
15 yield of groundwater resources.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the advisory
17 committee on sustainable yield, which shall be composed of seven
18 members, to be appointed by the chairperson of the commission on
19 water resource management, as follows:

20 (1) Three groundwater geologists, each with at least five
21 years of field experience in Hawaii;



1 (2) Three engineer-hydrologists, each with five years of
2 field experience; and

3 (3) One geologist from the Hawaii volcano observatory.

4 The advisory committee shall elect a chairperson from among its
5 members. Members shall serve until December 31, 2009. The
6 members shall serve without compensation, but shall be
7 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
8 for the performance of their duties.

9 (b) The advisory committee on sustainable yield shall:

10 (1) Advise the commission on water resource management on
11 the process and information necessary to revise
12 existing sustainable yield estimates;

13 (2) Review and add additional interpretation and input
14 from nongovernmental and governmental sources on
15 groundwater resources; and

16 (3) Make recommendations to the commission on water
17 resource management on targets of data that are
18 required for each hydrologic unit in order to revise
19 the sustainable yield for those units.

20 (c) The advisory committee on sustainable yield shall
21 submit a preliminary report of its findings regarding the issues
22 set forth in subsection (b) to the commission on water resource



1 management and to the legislature no later than twenty days
 2 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009, and shall
 3 submit a final report of its findings and recommendations
 4 regarding the issues set forth in subsection (b), including any
 5 proposed legislation, to the commission on water resource
 6 management and to the legislature no later than twenty days
 7 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2010.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
 11 purposes of this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Alan D. Sorenson II

 JAN 23 2008



Report Title:

Water Resources; Sustainable Yield

Description:

Creates a sustainable yield advisory committee to make recommendations to revise estimates of groundwater sustainable yield. Makes appropriation. Effective 7/1/08.

