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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO  
ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE  
NUMBER OF RAINWATER CATCHMENT AND STORAGE SYSTEMS  
STATEWIDE.

1           WHEREAS, a rainwater catchment system is based on the  
2 collection of rainwater and gravity flow pressure principles;  
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5           WHEREAS, generally, in a rainwater catchment system,  
6 rainwater is channeled off the roof of a house by rain gutters  
7 into a standpipe with spigots at the bottom; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the pressure of the water in the standpipe pushes  
10 the water out when the spigots are opened; and  
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12           WHEREAS, however, it is possible to catch rainwater in  
13 anything that holds water, such as a barrel; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in some rural areas of Hawaii, there is no  
16 municipal water and drilling a well is prohibitively expensive;  
17 and  
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19           WHEREAS, it is estimated that as many as sixty thousand  
20 Hawaii residents currently depend on rainwater for most, if not  
21 all, of their household water needs, including drinking,  
22 bathing, washing, flushing, laundry, and gardening; and  
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24           WHEREAS, rainwater catchment systems help reduce the  
25 negative environmental impacts of storm water runoff that  
26 carries debris and pollutants into the waterways; and  
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28           WHEREAS, in arid areas or during droughts, rainwater  
29 catchment systems also provide water for fire emergencies; and  
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1 WHEREAS, considering that most of the State averages over  
2 one hundred inches of rain each year, Hawaii is particularly  
3 conducive to the use of rainwater catchment systems; and  
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5 WHEREAS, experts at the University of Hawaii, in the  
6 Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management of  
7 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, have  
8 been advising the public on rainwater catchment systems through  
9 the Rainwater Catchment System Outreach Program since 2000; and  
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11 WHEREAS, Patricia S. H. Macomber, an educational specialist  
12 with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental  
13 Management, authored *Guidelines on Rainwater Catchment Systems*  
14 *in Hawaii*, to provide best management practices for proper  
15 maintenance of rainwater catchment and storage systems to help  
16 residents improve the quality of their water supply; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the State should encourage the establishment of  
19 rainwater catchment and storage systems statewide; now,  
20 therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
24 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Commission on  
25 Water Resource Management is requested to establish a task force  
26 to develop a program to increase the number of rainwater  
27 catchment and storage systems statewide. In establishing the  
28 task force, the Commission is requested to include  
29 representation from:  
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- 31 (1) The Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch;
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- 33 (2) The University of Hawaii, College of Tropical  
34 Agriculture and Human Resources, Department of Natural  
35 Resources and Environmental Management;
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- 37 (3) The University of Hawaii, Department of Microbiology  
38 and Water Resources Research Center;
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- 40 (4) The Honolulu Board of Water Supply;
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- 42 (5) The Kauai Department of Water;
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- 44 (6) The Maui Department of Water Supply;



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- (7) The Hawaii Department of Water Supply;
- (8) The planning department of each county; and
- (9) Other interested stakeholders as determined by the Commission on Water Resource Management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

- (1) Meet at least monthly; and
- (2) Submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to provide any administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support to the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Commission on Water Resource Management, the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chief of the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Health, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, the Manager of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the Manager of the Kauai Department of Water, the Director of the Maui Department of Water Supply, the Manager of the Hawaii Department of Water Supply, the Director of the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting, the Director of the Hawaii Planning Department, the Director of the Kauai Department of Planning, and the Director of the Maui Department of Planning.

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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