
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT GRAY WATER RECYCLING
PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION PURPOSES AS PROVIDED
UNDER THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE STANDARDS.

1 WHEREAS, at 18 percent higher than the national average,
2 Hawaii consumes the most water per capita in the nation, and the
3 demand for water in Hawaii is not likely to decrease; and
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5 WHEREAS, the wastewater reuse rate is not as high as it
6 could be--three of the four counties reuse wastewater at a rate
7 of less than five percent, the remaining county at the rate of
8 less than 15 percent, and the State at a rate of less than 25
9 percent; and
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11 WHEREAS, a low wastewater reuse rate is also taxing on our
12 wastewater treatment facilities--it will cost \$1,000,000,000 to
13 repair an aging sewer system; and
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15 WHEREAS, much of the wastewater currently treated at the
16 City and County of Honolulu's wastewater facilities is otherwise
17 reusable gray water that can be diverted from the sewer system,
18 which has often failed, with potentially disastrous consequences
19 for the health, safety, and economic welfare of our residents
20 and visitors; and
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22 WHEREAS, gray water can replace potable water for many
23 uses, thereby saving money, increasing water supply and
24 treatment effectiveness, and reducing operation and capital
25 costs of treatment facilities; and
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27 WHEREAS, gray water has a history of safe use in the
28 nation, and does not contaminate the natural surface and ground
29 waters because it is purified to a high degree in the upper,
30 most biologically active region of the soil; and



1 WHEREAS, counties have jurisdiction over residential
2 wastewater treatment in areas served by county sewer systems;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, under section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes
6 (HRS), counties, with the approval of the Department of Health,
7 may implement a gray water recycling program within their
8 jurisdictions in which gray water, defined as any water from the
9 domestic plumbing system of a residence, except toilets, is used
10 to irrigate lawns and gardens; and
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12 WHEREAS, the counties have not implemented gray water
13 recycling programs under section 342D-70, HRS, and, in adopting
14 national plumbing standards, have deleted gray water reuse
15 provisions; and
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17 WHEREAS, numerous other states facing water shortages have
18 adopted gray water reuse standards that have reduced potable
19 water use; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the counties are
24 urged to implement a gray water recycling program that adopts
25 the gray water standards for residential subsurface landscape
26 irrigation as provided in the Uniform Plumbing Code; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the counties are requested to adopt
29 standards that:
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- 31 (1) Limit each residence to use of 250 gallons of gray
32 water per day;
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- 34 (2) Ensure that overflow from a gray water system is
35 adequately directed into a sewer system or on-site
36 wastewater treatment and disposal system;
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- 38 (3) Require gray water storage tanks be adequately covered
39 to eliminate breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors;
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- 41 (4) Require gray water systems to be at least five feet
42 above the ground water table;
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- 1 (5) Require all gray water piping to be clearly identified
2 as non-potable water;
- 3
- 4 (6) Prevent gray water from a residence from being used
5 outside of the residential property;
- 6
- 7 (7) Minimize the potential for contact with people or
8 pets;
- 9
- 10 (8) Prevent ponding and minimize standing water;
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- 12 (9) Ensure that the hydraulic capacity of the residential
13 property is not exceeded with the use of gray water;
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- 15 (10) Ensure that gray water is not sprayed;
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- 17 (11) Prohibit the discharge of gray water to a water
18 course; and
- 19
- 20 (12) Ensure that gray water systems are not permitted in
21 flood zone areas;
- 22

23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
27 and the Mayor and the chairpersons of the county council of each
28 county.

