
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 a 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 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, the sewer system has failed in the past, and
16 another failure of the sewer system potentially has disastrous
17 consequences for the health, safety, and economic welfare of our
18 residents and visitors; and
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20 WHEREAS, much of the wastewater currently treated at the
21 City and County of Honolulu's wastewater facilities is otherwise
22 reusable gray water that can be diverted from the sewer system;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, gray water can replace potable water for many
26 uses, thereby saving money, increasing water supply and
27 treatment effectiveness, and reducing operation and capital
28 costs of treatment facilities; and



1 WHEREAS, gray water has a history of safe use in the
2 nation, and does not contaminate the natural surface and ground
3 waters because it is purified to a high degree in the upper,
4 most biologically active region of the soil; and

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6 WHEREAS, counties have jurisdiction over residential
7 wastewater treatment in areas served by county sewer systems;
8 and

9
10 WHEREAS, under section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes
11 (HRS), counties, with the approval of the Department of Health,
12 may implement a gray water recycling program within their
13 jurisdictions in which gray water, defined as any water from the
14 domestic plumbing system of a residence, except toilets, is used
15 to irrigate lawns and gardens; and

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17 WHEREAS, the counties have not implemented gray water
18 recycling programs under section 342D-70, HRS, and, in adopting
19 national plumbing standards, have deleted gray water reuse
20 provisions; and

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22 WHEREAS, numerous other states facing water shortages have
23 adopted gray water reuse standards that have reduced potable
24 water use; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the counties are
29 urged to implement a gray water recycling program that adopts
30 the gray water standards for residential subsurface landscape
31 irrigation as provided in the Uniform Plumbing Code; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Health is
34 requested to provide the counties with guidelines for gray water
35 reuse; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the counties are requested to adopt
38 standards that:

- 39
40 (1) Limit each residence to use of 250 gallons of gray
41 water per day;



- 1 (2) Ensure that overflow from a gray water system is
- 2 adequately directed into a sewer system or on-site
- 3 wastewater treatment and disposal system;
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- 5 (3) Require that gray water storage tanks be adequately
- 6 covered to eliminate breeding of mosquitoes or other
- 7 vectors;
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- 9 (4) Require that gray water systems be at least five feet
- 10 above the ground water table;
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- 12 (5) Require all gray water piping to be clearly identified
- 13 as non-potable water;
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- 15 (6) Prevent gray water from a residence from being used
- 16 outside of the residential property;
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- 18 (7) Minimize the potential for contact with people or
- 19 pets;
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- 21 (8) Prevent ponding and minimize standing water;
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- 23 (9) Ensure that the hydraulic capacity of the residential
- 24 property is not exceeded with the use of gray water;
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- 26 (10) Ensure that gray water is not sprayed;
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- 28 (11) Prohibit the discharge of gray water to a water
- 29 course; and
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- 31 (12) Ensure that gray water systems are not permitted in
- 32 flood zone areas;

33
34 and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
38 and the Mayor and the chairpersons of the county council of each
39 county.

