
HOUSE 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
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32 WHEREAS, counties have jurisdiction over residential
33 wastewater treatment in areas served by county sewer systems;
34 and



1 WHEREAS, under section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes
2 (HRS), counties, with the approval of the Department of Health,
3 may implement a gray water recycling program within their
4 jurisdictions in which gray water, defined as any water from the
5 domestic plumbing system of a residence, except toilets, is used
6 to irrigate lawns and gardens; and
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8 WHEREAS, the counties have not implemented gray water
9 recycling programs under section 342D-70, HRS, and, in adopting
10 national plumbing standards, have deleted gray water reuse
11 provisions; and
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13 WHEREAS, numerous other states facing water shortages have
14 adopted gray water reuse standards that have reduced potable
15 water use; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2008, that the counties are urged to implement a gray
20 water recycling program that adopts the gray water standards for
21 residential subsurface landscape irrigation as provided in the
22 Uniform Plumbing Code; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the counties are requested to adopt
25 standards that:
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- 27 (1) Limit each residence to use of 250 gallons of gray
28 water per day;
- 29 (2) Ensure that overflow from a gray water system is
30 adequately directed into a sewer system or on-site
31 wastewater treatment and disposal system;
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- 33 (3) Require gray water storage tanks be adequately covered
34 to eliminate breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors;
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- 36 (4) Require gray water systems to be at least five feet
37 above the ground water table;
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- 39 (5) Require all gray water piping to be clearly identified
40 as non-potable water;
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- 42 (6) Prevent gray water from a residence from being used
43 outside of the residential property;
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- 1 (7) Minimize the potential for contact with people or
2 pets;
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- 4 (8) Prevent ponding and minimize standing water;
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- 6 (9) Ensure that the hydraulic capacity of the residential
7 property is not exceeded with the use of gray water;
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- 9 (10) Ensure that gray water is not sprayed;
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- 11 (11) Prohibit the discharge of gray water to a water
12 course; and
- 13
- 14 (12) Ensure that gray water systems are not permitted in
15 flood zone areas;
- 16

17 and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the
21 Mayor and the chairpersons of the county council of each county.

