

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE
RAINWATER DETENTION AND RETENTION POND SAFETY PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the highest rate of drowning in the
2 country at an annual average of 2.4 victims for every one
3 hundred thousand residents who drown in the State's ocean
4 waters, lakes, dams and reservoirs, rainwater retention and
5 detention ponds, flood waters, swimming pools, spas, and private
6 homes; and

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8 WHEREAS the rate more than doubles when including visitor
9 statistics, making it the nation's riskiest destination in terms
10 of water safety; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's keiki are the most vulnerable to
13 drowning, which in this State and nine others, is the leading
14 cause of death among children aged fourteen and younger; and

15
16 WHEREAS, among children under age five, drowning accidents
17 in swimming pools are the leading cause of injury and death,
18 while Hawaii's older keiki are more vulnerable to drowning in
19 the ocean, lakes, ponds, dams and reservoirs, rainwater
20 catchments, as well as detention and retention ponds; and

21
22 WHEREAS, detention and retention ponds are meant to hold
23 storm water and rainwater catchments are similarly used to
24 harvest runoff rainwater; and

25
26 WHEREAS, unregulated and poorly maintained rainwater
27 detention and retention ponds pose a serious health and safety
28 risk, particularly to Hawaii's children because these ponds are
29 often mistaken for recreational bodies of water; and

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31 WHEREAS, rainwater detention and retention ponds should be
32 clearly marked with hazard and warning signs that prohibit
33 swimming and water sports; and



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 2 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has recommended action to
 3 reduce Hawaii's drowning rate and set a goal more than a year
 4 ago to reduce that rate by more than half, to less than one
 5 resident per one hundred thousand by 2010; and

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 7 WHEREAS, a high drowning rate detracts from the State's
 8 image as a safe as well as pleasurable visitor destination; and

9
 10 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the
 11 Consumer Product Safety Commission have recommended fencing to
 12 protect children from circumventing adult supervision, and the
 13 State's injury prevention panel has recommended four-sided
 14 isolation fencing for residential pools to isolate them from the
 15 house or yard; and

16
 17 WHEREAS, just like pools, rainwater detention and retention
 18 ponds should be similarly enclosed with chain-link or see-
 19 through fencing that is at least four feet high and accessed by
 20 a single locked gate; now, therefore,

21
 22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
 24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 25 Health is requested to implement a statewide rainwater detention
 26 and retention pond safety program; and

27
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 29 requested to carry out the following as part of the safety
 30 program:

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 32 (1) Encourage and assist developers or persons responsible
 33 for constructing or maintaining a retention pond,
 34 detention pond, or catchment area pond to adopt a
 35 maintenance and inspection plan to ensure adequate
 36 safety; and

37
 38 (2) Encourage installation of chain link or see-through
 39 fencing and signage to deter children from playing and
 40 congregating around or near these ponds or drainage
 41 areas; and

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 43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 44 also requested to develop retention pond, detention pond, and



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1 catchment area pond safety into the Department's water safety
2 curriculum; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 urged to request the Governor to provide funding to implement
6 the statewide rainwater detention and retention pond safety
7 program to the fullest extent required; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
11 Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: _____

Will Egan

