

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WATER BOARDS FROM EACH COUNTY TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF LAUNCHING A WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM THAT
PROMOTES THE INSTALLATION OF RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS ON
RESIDENCES FOR NON-POTABLE USAGE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a finite amount of groundwater filtered
2 through the porous volcanic rock of each island; and
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4 WHEREAS, the United States General Accounting Office
5 predicts that Hawaii will experience shortages over the next
6 decade, and in particular, Maui and Oahu with areas of high
7 growth could tap out underground water supplies in less than
8 twenty years; and
9

10 WHEREAS, past water shortages led the Maui County Council
11 to pass the "Show Me the Water" ordinance in December 2007,
12 which requires developers to substantiate a reliable long-term
13 water supply before receiving zoning or subdivision approvals,
14 with some exceptions; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geographic isolation makes the State
17 vulnerable in the event of a depleted watershed; and
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19 WHEREAS, roofs on residences offer ample square footage for
20 the collection of rainwater; and
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22 WHEREAS, in Australia, the world leader in the technology
23 for capturing rainwater, the Government of Queensland has a
24 model conservation program that provides rebates to homeowners
25 for the installation of rain catchment systems; and
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27 WHEREAS, in Japan there is no national legislation
28 governing the practice of rainwater harvesting, but local
29 governments are active in promoting rainwater harvesting by way
30 of subsidies, such as the City of Kobe, which will subsidize up
31 to two-thirds of the cost of installation; and
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1 WHEREAS, the state of Texas provides a Sales Tax Redemption
2 for water efficiency equipment that includes rainwater
3 harvesting systems; and
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5 WHEREAS, the use of rain catchment systems is not new to
6 Hawaii and has been historically used in rural areas; and
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8 WHEREAS, expertise exists in Hawaii through Hawai'i
9 Rainwater Catchment, a partnership website serving those who use
10 rainwater catchment in Hawai'i, and whose partners include the
11 Hawai'i Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, the County of
12 Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical
13 Agriculture and Human Resources, and Natural Resources and
14 Environmental Management; and
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16 WHEREAS, the promotion of Hawaii's solar industry with
17 rebates and tax credits serves as a model for a resource
18 conservation initiative; and
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20 WHEREAS, vendors now offer a wide range of economical
21 systems for rainwater harvesting; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
25 that the water boards from each county are requested to study
26 the feasibility of launching a water conservation program that
27 promotes the installation of rainwater catchment systems on
28 residences for non-potable usage, such as watering yards,
29 washing cars, flushing toilets, etc.; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water boards from each
32 county are requested to report to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2009, on the feasibility of launching a water conservation
35 program in their respective counties; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the City and County of Honolulu
39 Board of Water Supply, the County of Hawaii Water



1 Board, the County of Kauai Board of Water Supply, and the County
2 of Maui Board of Water Supply.

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