
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK WITH THE COUNTIES TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE GRAY WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS AND THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL RAIN CATCHMENT STORAGE SYSTEMS.

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
4

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
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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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7 WHEREAS, under section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes
8 (HRS), counties, with the approval of the Department of Health
9 (DOH), may implement a gray water recycling program within their
10 jurisdictions in which gray water, defined as any water from the
11 domestic plumbing system of a residence, except toilets, is used
12 to irrigate lawns and gardens; and
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14 WHEREAS, although DOH has adopted rules authorizing use of
15 gray water recycling systems, no county appears to have sought
16 approval to implement a gray water recycling program in its
17 jurisdiction; and
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19 WHEREAS, the counties have adopted national plumbing
20 standards that have deleted gray water reuse provisions; and
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22 WHEREAS, legislation was considered in 2008 that would
23 place responsibility for developing gray water recycling
24 programs with DOH; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Director of Health testified that while DOH
27 has rules authorizing the use of gray water for subsurface
28 irrigation for residences with individual wastewater systems, it
29 lacks the resources to oversee implementation of a gray water
30 program for residences served by county sewer systems; and
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32 WHEREAS, numerous other states facing water shortages have
33 adopted gray water reuse standards that have reduced potable
34 water use in recognition of the importance of conserving
35 valuable potable water; now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that DOH is urged to work with
40 the counties to develop strategies for establishing effective
41 gray water recycling programs and the use of individual rain
42 catchment storage systems; and
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H.C.R. NO. 212

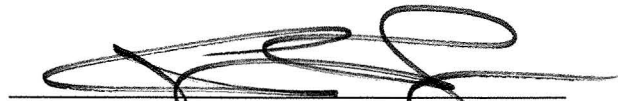
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOH is requested to provide the
 2 counties with technical guidance and support to incorporate
 3 international research and technology for the reuse of gray
 4 water and conservation and facilitation of individual water
 5 systems; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
 9 of Health, and the mayor and chairpersons of the county council
 10 of each county.






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OFFERED BY:



A.C. Kurtz

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