
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO AMEND ITS BUILDING CODE TO
REQUIRE FILTERS AND ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT SYSTEMS IN WATER
CATCHMENT SYSTEMS THAT ARE INSTALLED IN VOG-IMPACTED AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2008, a new gas vent broke through
2 the east wall of Halema'uma'u crater, increasing sulfur dioxide
3 (SO₂) emission rates at Kilauea's summit to a record since
4 measurements were first taken in 1979 from 1,800 to 2,000 tons
5 per day; and

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7 WHEREAS, in response to these increases in emissions, a
8 House Special Committee on Vog Effects was created to examine
9 the effects of vog on the people of Hawaii; and

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11 WHEREAS, one of the concerns raised was the copper leaching
12 into rain from the roofs on which it falls and then entering and
13 contaminating water in catchment systems; and

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15 WHEREAS, acid rain caused by the SO₂ in vog leaches lead
16 from lead-based paint used on roofs, and this leachate then
17 falls into water catchment systems; and

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19 WHEREAS, while the Department of Health does not recommend
20 drinking water from water catchment systems, many residents in
21 vog-impacted areas have few practical alternatives and are
22 therefore likely to disregard such a recommendation; and

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24 WHEREAS, it is imperative that controls are put in place to
25 prevent the human consumption of water contaminated by lead and
26 copper from water catchment systems; and

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28 WHEREAS, while the County of Hawaii requires building
29 permits to construct all water catchment systems, regardless of
30 depth or capacity, the Hawaii County building code does not



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1 currently impose any requirements on water catchment systems;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, the use of filters and ultraviolet light systems
5 to treat water in water catchment systems can greatly improve
6 water quality by filtering out contaminants and killing certain
7 pathogens and therefore should be required in catchment systems
8 used in vog-impacted areas; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2009, that the County of Hawaii is urged to amend its
13 building code to require filters and ultraviolet light systems
14 in water catchment systems that are installed in vog-impacted
15 areas; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the County of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

✓

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