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## HOUSE 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  
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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 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;  
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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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30 WHEREAS, gray water has a history of safe use in the  
31 nation, and does not contaminate the natural surface and ground  
32 waters because it is purified to a high degree in the upper,  
33 most biologically active region of the soil; and



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WHEREAS, under section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), counties, with the approval of the Department of Health (DOH), may implement a gray water recycling program within their jurisdictions in which gray water, defined as any water from the domestic plumbing system of a residence, except toilets, is used to irrigate lawns and gardens; and

WHEREAS, although DOH has adopted rules authorizing use of gray water recycling systems, no county appears to have sought approval to implement a gray water recycling program in its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the counties have adopted national plumbing standards that have deleted gray water reuse provisions; and

WHEREAS, legislation was considered in 2008 that would place responsibility for developing gray water recycling programs with DOH; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Health testified that while DOH has rules authorizing the use of gray water for subsurface irrigation for residences with individual wastewater systems, it lacks the resources to oversee implementation of a gray water program for residences served by county sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, numerous other states facing water shortages have adopted gray water reuse standards that have reduced potable water use in recognition of the importance of conserving valuable potable water; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that DOH is urged to work with the counties to develop strategies for establishing effective gray water recycling programs and the use of individual rain catchment storage systems; and


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



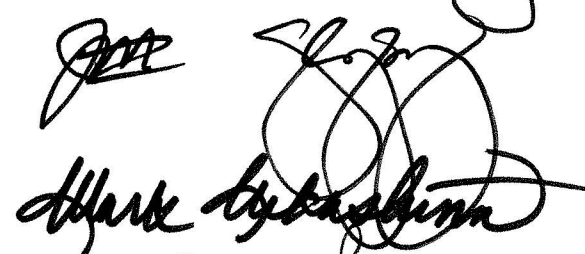
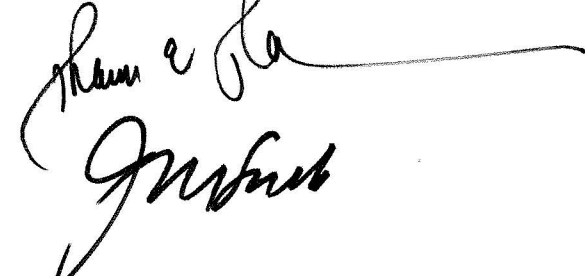
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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 3 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,  
 4 and the mayor and chairpersons of the county council of each  
 5 county.  
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OFFERED BY:



A.C. Kelly

MAR 18 2009

