
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COMPLETE
A COMPREHENSIVE WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, water constitutes Hawai'i's most precious natural,
2 economic, and cultural resource; and
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4 WHEREAS, water has sustained countless generations of
5 people in Hawai'i, beginning with the first settlers to the
6 islands--the Native Hawaiians--who developed efficient and
7 sustainable ways of harnessing the resource for their
8 agricultural and aquacultural systems; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Constitution provides that, along with
11 other natural resources, water is a public trust resource to be
12 managed and regulated for the benefit of the people, and
13 mandates the setting of overall water conservation policies by a
14 water resources agency; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 1987, the Fourteenth Legislature enacted the
17 State Water Code, codified in Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised
18 Statutes, to provide guidance and direction for the managing and
19 safeguarding of Hawaii's water resources; and
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21 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Department of Land and Natural
22 Resources (DLNR), through the Commission on Water Resource
23 Management (CWRM), drafted the Prototype Water Conservation Plan
24 to develop policies and procedures that could be applied to
25 typical government facilities statewide addressing both potable
26 and non-potable water demands, identifying practical water
27 conservation measures, and developing implementation schedules
28 and budgets; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Prototype Water Conservation Plan called for
31 the preparation of a larger, more comprehensive State agency
32 water conservation plan; however, this was never finalized and
33 to this day remains unimplemented; and



1 WHEREAS, population increase and urban development in
2 Hawai'i have resulted in a serious imbalance between water use
3 and available water resources; and
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5 WHEREAS, the total fresh water available for urban use is
6 beginning to reach the limit before desalination and other
7 costly measures become necessary; and
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9 WHEREAS, every day hundreds of gallons of potable water are
10 wasted because of inefficient water management systems, leaky
11 faucets, unrepaired underground leaks, and use of irrigation
12 systems that water more frequently and longer than soils are
13 able to accept or plants need, causing runoff and ponding, and
14 constantly swamping certain areas; and
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16 WHEREAS, broken sprinkler heads can often be seen in public
17 places, along highways and in parks, and on private property,
18 visibly wasting water; and
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20 WHEREAS, improvements to indoor plumbing fixtures, such as
21 shower heads and faucet aerators, have increased water savings,
22 yet readily available improvements to outdoor landscaping water
23 fixtures have not been widely adopted; and
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25 WHEREAS, because most potable water must be electrically
26 pumped to upland reservoirs to provide users with steady water
27 pressure, infrastructure, maintenance, and repair costs cause an
28 increase in the cost of providing clean water; and
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30 WHEREAS, water conservation is a low-cost way to expand
31 available water resources and engage the public in the
32 collective effort to safeguard Hawai'i's water resources; and
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34 WHEREAS, the economy has forced state offices to cut back
35 staff and reduced their ability to accomplish longstanding, but
36 incomplete, goals relating to water conservation; and
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38 WHEREAS, landscaping industry groups, conservation groups,
39 and major water users are willing and able to assist in the
40 completion of the long-awaited statewide plan for water
41 conservation, and to facilitate its implementation; and



H.R. NO. 68

1 WHEREAS, to ensure there is enough water now and in the
 2 future for all of Hawai'i's people, immediate steps must be taken
 3 to make the most efficient use of the state's existing water
 4 supplies; now, therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
 8 of 2010, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in
 9 partnership with the Commission on Water Resource Management, is
 10 urged to immediately complete the drafting of a comprehensive
 11 statewide plan for water conservation to establish a set of
 12 clear and comprehensive policies and procedures to protect and
 13 conserve Hawai'i's valuable water resources, particularly
 14 addressing landscaping; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 17 Natural Resources and the Commission on Water Resource
 18 Management are requested to include the landscaping industry and
 19 conservation groups in the development of a sound and achievable
 20 statewide plan for water conservation; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 23 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
 24 progress to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the
 25 convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 29 Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY:

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