
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that water for domestic
2 and agricultural use is essential to the health and welfare of
3 the people of Hawaii, but is a limited resource that must be
4 carefully managed and conserved to ensure its sustainability.
5 In addition to ensuring adequate treatment of water for water
6 quality, maintenance and repair of existing irrigation systems
7 is necessary to practice water conservation. However, water
8 conservation efforts cannot be executed without adequate
9 funding.

10 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 11 (1) Authorize the county water agencies to assess a
12 reasonable fee, separate from water rates currently
13 charged, to be designated as a water quality fee and
14 used to preserve water quality and quantity;
- 15 (2) Authorize counties to use funds collected from the
16 water quality fee for county efforts to protect water
17 quality; and



1 (3) Provide that a certain percentage of the funds
2 collected from the water quality fee be used for the
3 repair and maintenance of certain irrigation systems.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
6 read as follows:

7 "§46- Water quality fee. (a) The board of water
8 supply of the city and county of Honolulu and the water board or
9 department of each county shall have the power to assess a
10 reasonable fee, separate from water rates charged for water
11 usage, designated as a water quality fee, to be used by the
12 county assessing the fee to fund county efforts to protect and
13 preserve water quality; provided that per cent of the
14 assessment shall be deposited in the irrigation repair and
15 maintenance special fund established under section 167-24. The
16 water quality fee may be collected by charging excess fees to
17 those water users who consume water at a higher consumption rate
18 than other users.

19 (b) Each county shall adopt or amend its ordinances as
20 necessary to enable its water agency to effectively exercise its
21 authorized power under this section."



1 SECTION 3. Section 167-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 "(c) The irrigation repair and maintenance special fund
4 shall be funded by [~~legislative~~]:

5 (1) Legislative appropriations, including general
6 obligation bond funds and federal funds~~[-]~~; and

7 (2) Water quality fees collected under section 46- ."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

11

INTRODUCED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H.', written over a horizontal line.

JAN 26 2009



Report Title:

Water Quality; Funding

Description:

Authorizes the water agencies of the counties to assess a separate water quality fee to be used by the counties to ensure water quality and to fund irrigation system repair and maintenance.

