
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE RE-USE OF R-1 WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES IN CENTRAL OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, through the natural water cycle, the earth has
2 recycled and reused water for millions of years, and modern
3 water recycling uses technology to speed up these natural
4 processes; and
5

6 WHEREAS, recycled water can satisfy most water demands,
7 provided it has been adequately treated to ensure water quality
8 that is appropriate for its corresponding use, and thus saves
9 money and increases the effective water supply; and
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11 WHEREAS, there is a long history of water recycling
12 activities in the United States, and regulatory oversight at the
13 state and federal levels has ensured the safety of various water
14 recycling projects undertaken in this country; and
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16 WHEREAS, no documented cases of human health problems due
17 to contact with recycled water that has been properly treated to
18 standards, criteria, and regulations have been reported,
19 according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
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21 WHEREAS, recycled water is most commonly used for non-
22 potable purposes, such as agriculture, landscaping, golf course
23 irrigation, dust control, and construction activities; and
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25 WHEREAS, with regard to agriculture, a number of other
26 states already use recycled water for agricultural purposes,
27 such that a significant amount of imported produce sold in
28 Hawaii is produced with recycled water of the R-1 grade, and
29 large-scale agricultural users of recycled water in other states
30 have been passing audits that anticipate the implementation of
31 the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii consumes the most water per capita in the
2 U.S., eighteen per cent higher than the national average; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan calls for,
5 among other things, measures to encourage greater production and
6 use of recycled water; and
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8 WHEREAS, land use in Central Oahu is currently in
9 transition following the decline of the sugar and pineapple
10 industries, and agriculture must compete with other users of
11 non-potable water such as military housing and new urban
12 development; and
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14 WHEREAS, R-1 water is the highest designation for recycled
15 water being used in Hawaii and is approved for agricultural use
16 on low-lying crops, unlike R-2 water, which is of lower quality
17 and restricted to use in circumstances where human contact is
18 minimized; and
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20 WHEREAS, various sources of recycled water exist on Oahu
21 but are under-utilized, such as water from the U.S. Army
22 Schofield Barracks Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is treated
23 and brought up to an R-1 designation, only for the excess to be
24 drained into a ditch; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2013, that the Department of Land and Natural
29 Resources is requested to establish a Task Force to consider and
30 make recommendations on the re-use of R-1 water for agricultural
31 purposes in Central Oahu; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, more specifically, the Task
34 Force is requested to consider and make recommendations
35 regarding:
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- 37 (1) The feasibility of increasing the amount of R-1 water
38 available for agricultural use;
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- 1 (2) Methods by which to pump and transport the water to
- 2 Central Oahu for agricultural use while maintaining
- 3 the water's R-1 designation;
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- 5 (3) The location(s) to which the R-1 water should be
- 6 pumped, based on both need and practicality;
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- 8 (4) The possibility of a pilot program implementing
- 9 agricultural use of R-1 water from the Schofield
- 10 Barracks Wastewater Treatment Plant, and if
- 11 successful, further use of the pilot program as a
- 12 model for statewide implementation with other
- 13 wastewater treatment plants;
- 14
- 15 (5) Ways to increase public awareness about the safety and
- 16 benefits of using R-1 water for agricultural purposes;
- 17 and
- 18
- 19 (6) Any other relevant factors; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 22 Natural Resources is requested to determine, at its discretion,
 23 who shall serve on the Task Force; and

24
 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 26 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report to the
 27 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 28 the Regular Session of 2014, containing the recommendations of
 29 the Task Force, including any proposed legislation; and

30
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 32 be dissolved on June 30, 2014; and

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 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 36 Land and Natural Resources.

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