

MAR 13 2013

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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



1 have been passing audits that anticipate the implementation of  
2 the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii consumes the most water per capita in the  
5 U.S., eighteen per cent higher than the national average; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan calls for,  
8 among other things, measures to encourage greater production and  
9 use of recycled water; and

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11 WHEREAS, land use in Central Oahu is currently in  
12 transition following the decline of the sugar and pineapple  
13 industries, and agriculture must compete with other users of  
14 non-potable water such as military housing and new urban  
15 development; and

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17 WHEREAS, R-1 water is the highest designation for recycled  
18 water being used in Hawaii and is approved for agricultural use  
19 on low-lying crops, unlike R-2 water, which is of lower quality  
20 and restricted to use in circumstances where human contact is  
21 minimized; and

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23 WHEREAS, various sources of recycled water exist on Oahu  
24 but are under-utilized, such as water from the U.S. Army  
25 Schofield Barracks Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is treated  
26 and brought up to an R-1 designation, only for the excess to be  
27 drained into a ditch; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
32 and Natural Resources is requested to establish a Task Force to  
33 consider and make recommendations on the re-use of R-1 water for  
34 agricultural purposes in Central Oahu; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, more specifically, the Task  
37 Force is requested to consider and make recommendations  
38 regarding:

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40 (1) The feasibility of increasing the amount of R-1 water  
41 available for agricultural use;



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- (2) Methods by which to pump and transport the water to Central Oahu for agricultural use while maintaining the water's R-1 designation;
- (3) The location(s) to which the R-1 water should be pumped, based on both need and practicality;
- (4) The possibility of a pilot program implementing agricultural use of R-1 water from the Schofield Barracks Wastewater Treatment Plant, and if successful, further use of the pilot program as a model for statewide implementation with other wastewater treatment plants;
- (5) Ways to increase public awareness about the safety and benefits of using R-1 water for agricultural purposes; and
- (6) Any other relevant factors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to determine, at its discretion, who shall serve on the Task Force; and

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

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

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

OFFERED BY: Clarena K. Kishikawa

