

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dams and reservoirs  
2 are a critical part of our State's infrastructure, providing  
3 numerous benefits that our communities depend upon. In addition  
4 to storing and delivering a reliable source of water for  
5 agriculture during dry periods, assisting with flood control  
6 during large storms, and helping to mitigate erosion and reduce  
7 sediment runoff to near shore ocean reefs, dams and reservoirs  
8 also play an important role in providing drinking water for  
9 Hawaii's residents.

10           The legislature further finds that the continued  
11 availability and operation of dams and reservoirs is extremely  
12 important in sustaining our water resources and enhancing public  
13 safety. By capturing storm water that would otherwise rush to  
14 the ocean, reservoirs help to recharge our groundwater aquifers,  
15 which are a primary source for much of Hawaii's drinking water.  
16 Providing renewable energy through the use of hydropower is



1 another significant community benefit derived from dams and  
2 reservoirs.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a dam and reservoir  
4 working group to ensure and enhance the continued availability  
5 and operation of dams and reservoirs in the State of Hawaii.

6 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a dam and reservoir  
7 working group, to be placed within the department of land and  
8 natural resources for administrative purposes only.

9 (b) Without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised  
10 Statutes, the dam and reservoir working group shall consist of  
11 the following members:

- 12 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
13 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall  
14 serve as the co-chairperson of the working group;
- 15 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the  
16 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the co-  
17 chairperson of the working group;
- 18 (3) The deputy director for water resource management of  
19 the department of land and natural resources or the  
20 deputy director's designee;



- 1           (4) Two persons appointed by the governor, one of whom
- 2                   shall represent the counties;
- 3           (5) One person selected by the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
- 4                   to represent the Council;
- 5           (6) One person selected by the Land Use Research
- 6                   Foundation to represent the foundation;
- 7           (7) One person selected by the Hawaii Farm Bureau
- 8                   Federation to represent the federation; and
- 9           (8) Three owners of dams and reservoirs regulated by the
- 10                   department of land and natural resources to be
- 11                   selected by the co-chairpersons of the working group.

12           Any vacancies in the working group shall be filled in the

13 manner provided for in the original appointments.

14           (c) The dam and reservoir working group shall review

15 applicable state laws, administrative rules, and operational

16 policies and recommend amendments, modifications, or actions to

17 be taken to ensure and enhance the continued availability and

18 operation of dams and reservoirs in the State of Hawaii and

19 shall examine the role dams and reservoirs can play in drought

20 mitigation and the maintenance of a dependable water supply.



1 (d) The dam and reservoir working group shall report its  
 2 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 3 legislation, amendments to rules, policy modifications, or other  
 4 actions, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
 5 the convening of the regular session of 2017.

6 (e) The members of the working group shall serve without  
 7 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
 8 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

9 (f) The dam and reservoir working group shall cease to  
 10 exist on June 30, 2017.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
 14 purpose of funding the dam and reservoir working group.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Dam and Reservoir Working Group; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Dam and Reservoir Working Group to ensure and enhance the continued availability and operation of dams and reservoirs in the State of Hawaii and consider their role in drought mitigation. Appropriation. (HB2054 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

