
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS THE DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER INTO GROUNDWATER RESOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, wastewater that is not re-used is
2 either discharged to surface water or to groundwater; and

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4 WHEREAS, wastewater discharged to groundwater is not
5 required to be treated to levels that comply with state water-
6 quality standards designed to keep water safe for fishing and
7 swimming; and

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9 WHEREAS, regulations for wastewater discharge to
10 groundwater do not require consideration of the potential that
11 the discharge may pollute surface water; and

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13 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that wastewater
14 discharged into the ground can and does subsequently affect
15 surface water and thus, these discharges should be managed
16 accordingly; and

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18 WHEREAS, waste systems and injection well phase upgrades
19 could be examined in areas where injection wells may be
20 currently affecting surface water; and

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22 WHEREAS, current regulation of wastewater discharges from
23 groundwater to surface water may lack technical criteria and the
24 high level of rigor necessary to prevent significant pollution
25 of surface water; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2017, that the Department of Health is requested to establish
30 a task force to investigate and address the disposal of
31 wastewater into groundwater resources, including the following:



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- 1 (1) Identify regulatory gaps, mandates, and appropriations
- 2 regarding the development of standards for wastewater
- 3 discharged into groundwater;
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- 5 (2) Identify statutory revisions specifically addressing
- 6 wastewater discharges to groundwater where there is
- 7 the potential to affect surface water; and
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- 9 (3) Recommend appropriations for staffing to meet the
- 10 workload demands imposed by any suggested new
- 11 statutes, mandates, or regulations; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 14 requested to submit the task force's findings and
 15 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 16 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
 17 Regular Session of 2018; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
 21 Health.

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OFFERED BY: *Matthew ...*
Allen ...
Nicole E. ...
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MAR 10 2017