
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STREAMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the commission on
2 water resource management, in cooperation with the United States
3 Geological Survey, has been conducting intensive low-flow stream
4 characterization studies over the past twenty years. These
5 studies have covered portions of windward Oahu and most of Maui.
6 Other studies in cooperation with the United States Geological
7 Survey include a low-flow stream study in southeast Kauai to
8 assess the streamflow characteristics from Wailua in the north
9 to Hanapepe in the south, and low-flow stream characterization
10 studies for all streams on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Molokai,
11 Maui, and Hawaii. Despite previous and current efforts to
12 assess streamflow statewide, there are various other stream
13 studies that can be conducted to increase the understanding of
14 Hawaii's streams and contribute to the data needed to develop
15 measurable instream flow standards.

16 The purpose of this Act is to:



(1) Require the commission on water resource management to contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct a five-year study on streamflow in the State and submit a progress report to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019 to 2023; and

(2) Appropriate funds for the commission on water resource management to contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct a streamflow study.

SECTION 2. (a) The commission on water resource management shall contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct a five-year study on streamflow in the State; provided that the study shall include the following:

(1) An intensive, site-specific low-flow stream study of streams in the east Maui area that are diverted by the east Maui irrigation system, which have not been previously studied; and

(2) For United States Geological Survey stream gaging purposes:

(A) Establishing instream flow monitoring stations;



(B) Converting a number of existing crest stage gaging stations into continuous streamflow stations for instream flow standard monitoring; and

(C) Installing index stations proposed by the United States Geological Survey to aid in better long-term study.

(b) The commission on water resource management shall submit to the legislature a report of its progress of the study no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the commission on water resource management to contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct a study on streamflow in the State; provided that the sum appropriated shall be expended as follows:

(1) \$200,000 for an intensive, site-specific low-flow stream study of streams in the east Maui area that are



1 diverted by the east Maui irrigation system, which
2 have not been previously studied; and
3 (2) \$200,000 for establishing three United States
4 Geological Survey continuous record stream gaging
5 stations, which will serve as index stations for a
6 period of five years to aid in better long-term trend
7 assessments.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the commission on
9 water resource management for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Commission on Water Resource Management; Streamflow Study;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the commission on water resource management to contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct a five-year study on streamflow in the State and submit a progress report to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2019 to 2023. Appropriates funds for the commission on water resource management to contract with the United States Geological Survey to conduct the streamflow study. (SD1)

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