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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ONSITE-NON-POTABLE WATER REUSE SYSTEMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as an island state,  
2 Hawai'i has limited access to natural fresh water and unlike in  
3 other states, it is not economically feasible to ship in  
4 additional supplies when needed. Competition for fresh water  
5 from increasing population, development pressures, and the  
6 impact of climate change require that Hawai'i develop strategies  
7 for increasing water conservation, recharge, and reuse in order  
8 to ensure fresh water supplies for current and future  
9 generations. The Hawai'i fresh water initiative was developed as  
10 a statewide goal to increase water security by one hundred  
11 million gallons a day by 2030. This will require more than  
12 doubling the amount of wastewater currently reused in the  
13 islands to provide an additional thirty million gallons a day in  
14 water availability.

15           The legislature further finds that the use of recycled  
16 water for non-potable applications has proven safe and feasible  
17 under existing regulatory regimes in Hawai'i and many other



1 states, as well as in other industrialized countries of the  
2 world. Onsite water reuse in high-rise and mid-rise  
3 developments in particular has proven feasible and safe in New  
4 York, California, Japan, Australia, and other locations. The  
5 use of recycled water generated onsite at high-rise and mid-rise  
6 developments can replace a large percentage of the future  
7 potable water demand of such developments.

8 In order to increase onsite water reuse at the development  
9 level, the legislature finds that guidance from the National  
10 Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems  
11 would be invaluable. The National Blue Ribbon Commission  
12 advances best management practices to support the use of onsite  
13 non-potable water systems within individual buildings or at the  
14 local scale through a commitment to protect public health and  
15 the environment. To support the adoption of onsite non-potable  
16 systems, the commission has developed tools and resources based  
17 on world class research and best practices underway in local  
18 communities.

19 To help reach the 2030 goal for water reuse, the department  
20 of health organized a water reuse task force based on House  
21 Concurrent Resolution 86, S.D. 1 (2018), with the purpose of



1 identifying policies to help scale water reuse in the Hawaiian  
2 islands. Task force participants included representatives from  
3 the department of health, board of land and natural resources,  
4 commission on water resources management, board of agriculture,  
5 Honolulu board of water supply, Hawaii freshwater initiative,  
6 Hawaii Community Foundation, county representatives, and members  
7 of the house of representatives and the senate. The legislature  
8 notes that this Act was informed and guided by the water reuse  
9 task force with the goal of safely, effectively, and  
10 economically scaling water reuse throughout Hawai'i.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
12 health to adopt rules by January 1, 2021, for onsite non-potable  
13 water reuse systems.

14 SECTION 2. By January 1, 2021, the department of health  
15 shall adopt rules for onsite non-potable water reuse systems,  
16 based on the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-  
17 potable Water Systems' "A Guide for Developing and Implementing  
18 Regulations for Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems."

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Onsite Non-potable Water Reuse Systems; Department of Health

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to adopt rules by January 1, 2021, for onsite non-potable water reuse systems. (HB444 HD1)

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