
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING THE HAWAII DAM SAFETY TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, recent weather events and future weather
2 projections for the State indicate periods of heavy, damaging
3 rains followed by periods of drought; and
4

5 WHEREAS, increasing Hawaii's ability to manage extreme
6 weather events is a matter of significant public concern; and
7

8 WHEREAS, storms with heavy rainfall can cause significant
9 environmental damage, including sediment runoff into the ocean
10 that threatens coral reefs and aquatic species; and
11

12 WHEREAS, storms accompanied by heavy rainfall can also
13 cause flooding, including flash flooding, that threatens
14 property and lives; and
15

16 WHEREAS, there is a need to reduce damaging floodwaters
17 while also capturing rainwater for use during times of drought
18 and for groundwater recharge; and
19

20 WHEREAS, when combined with a dam system, reservoirs can
21 help prevent loss of life and property caused by flooding, as
22 flood control dams can impound floodwater and then release it
23 under control to a river below the dam, or store or divert the
24 water for other uses; and
25

26 WHEREAS, reservoirs are effective at capturing abundant
27 rainfall that can then be used during drier periods, including
28 droughts; and
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30 WHEREAS, the State's duty to increase agricultural self-
31 sufficiency pursuant to article XI, section 3, of the state
32 constitution, will not be possible without sufficient water
33 resources during times of drought; and



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1 WHEREAS, difficulties in complying with current state dam
2 safety regulations, in addition to liability concerns, spur
3 landowners to decommission, rather than continue operation of,
4 existing reservoirs; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
8 2019, the Senate concurring, that a Hawaii Dam Safety Task Force
9 be convened to:

- 10
11 (1) Reevaluate the Hawaii Dam and Reservoir Safety Act of
12 2007, pursuant to chapter 179D, Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes, specifically with respect to liability
14 concerns; and
15
16 (2) Develop a strategic plan regarding dam safety to
17 address climate fluctuations and Hawaii's need for
18 water for the environment and its people; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Dam Safety Task
21 Force comprise the:

- 22
23 (1) Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
24 Chairperson's designee;
25
26 (2) Chief Engineer of the Department of Land and Natural
27 Resources Engineering Division, who shall serve as
28 chairperson of the task force;
29
30 (3) Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources
31 Commission on Water Resources Management, or the
32 Deputy's designee;
33
34 (4) President of the Executive Board of the Hawaii
35 Association of Conservation Districts, or the
36 President's designee;
37
38 (5) Director of the University of Hawaii Water Resources
39 Research Center, or the Director's designee;
40
41 (6) Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
42 Extension of the University of Hawaii College of



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- 1 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, or the Dean
2 and Director's designee;
- 3
- 4 (7) Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department
5 of Design and Construction, or the Director's
6 designee;
- 7
- 8 (8) Director of the Hawaii County Department of Public
9 Works, or the Director's designee;
- 10
- 11 (9) Director of the Maui County Department of Public
12 Works, or the Director's designee;
- 13
- 14 (10) County Engineer of the Kauai County Department of
15 Public Works, or the County Engineer's designee;
- 16
- 17 (11) Manager and Chief Engineer of the City and County of
18 Honolulu Board of Water Supply, or the Manager and
19 Chief Engineer's designee;
- 20
- 21 (12) Manager and Chief Engineer of the Hawaii County
22 Department of Water Supply, or the Manager and Chief
23 Engineer's designee;
- 24
- 25 (13) Director of the Maui County Department of Water
26 Supply, or the Director's designee; and
- 27
- 28 (14) Manager and Chief Engineer of the Kauai County
29 Department of Water, or the Manager and Chief
30 Engineer's designee; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the task
33 force invite a representative from each of the following
34 entities to serve as task force members:

- 35
- 36 (1) United States Department of Agriculture National
37 Resource Conservation Service Pacific Islands Area
38 State Office;
- 39
- 40 (2) The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii;
- 41
- 42 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau;

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1 (4) Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and

2
3 (5) Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and

4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
6 perform an analysis and develop a strategic plan that addresses:

7
8 (1) Landowner concerns regarding liability, specifically
9 as those concerns relate to the Hawaii Dam and
10 Reservoir Safety Act of 2007;

11
12 (2) Incentives for storage of water for use during times
13 of drought; and

14
15 (3) Strategic solutions in land use planning, including
16 public-private partnerships; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Hawaii Dam Safety Task Force is
19 requested to submit to the Legislature its proposed strategic
20 plan, including its findings, recommendations, and any proposed
21 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2020; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the: Chairperson of the
26 Board of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and
27 Natural Resources; Chief Engineer of the Department of Land and
28 Natural Resources Engineering Division; Deputy of the Department
29 of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resources
30 Management; President of the Executive Board of the Hawaii
31 Association of Conservation Districts; Director of the
32 University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center; Dean and
33 Director for Research and Cooperative Extension of the
34 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
35 Resources; Director of the City and County of Honolulu
36 Department of Design and Construction; Director of the Hawaii
37 County Department of Public Works; Director of the Maui County
38 Department of Public Works; Director of the Kauai County
39 Department of Public Works; Manager and Chief Engineer of the
40 City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply; Manager and
41 Chief Engineer of the Hawaii County Department of Water Supply;
42 Director of the Maui County Department of Water Supply; Manager



1 and Chief Engineer of the Kauai County Department of Water;
 2 Director of the United States Department of Agriculture National
 3 Resource Conservation Service Pacific Islands Area State Office;
 4 Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii;
 5 Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau; President of the
 6 Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and Executive Director of the
 7 Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

Richard Long

[Signature]
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Lyn DeCote

MAR 08 2019

