

---

---

# HOUSE 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  
29

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  
34

35           WHEREAS, difficulties in complying with current state dam  
safety regulations, in addition to liability concerns, spur



# H.R. NO. 100

1 landowners to decommission, rather than continue operation of,  
2 existing reservoirs; now, therefore,  
3

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

- 8 (1) Reevaluate the Hawaii Dam and Reservoir Safety Act of  
9 2007, pursuant to chapter 179D, Hawaii Revised  
10 Statutes, specifically with respect to liability  
11 concerns; and  
12
- 13 (2) Develop a strategic plan regarding dam safety to  
14 address climate fluctuations and Hawaii's need for  
15 water for the environment and its people; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Dam Safety Task  
18 Force comprise the:  
19

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



# H.R. NO. 100

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

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

- 32
- 33 (1) United States Department of Agriculture National  
34 Resource Conservation Service Pacific Islands Area  
35 State Office;
- 36
- 37 (2) The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii;
- 38
- 39 (3) Hawaii Farm Bureau;
- 40 (4) Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and
- 41
- 42 (5) Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; and



# H.R. NO. 100

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

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

- (1) Landowner concerns regarding liability, specifically as those concerns relate to the Hawaii Dam and Reservoir Safety Act of 2007;
- (2) Incentives for storage of water for use during times of drought; and
- (3) Strategic solutions in land use planning, including public-private partnerships; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the: Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chief Engineer of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Engineering Division; Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resources Management; President of the Executive Board of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts; Director of the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center; Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative Extension of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Design and Construction; Director of the Hawaii County Department of Public Works; Director of the Maui County Department of Public Works; Director of the Kauai County Department of Public Works; Manager and Chief Engineer of the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply; Manager and Chief Engineer of the Hawaii County Department of Water Supply; Director of the Maui County Department of Water Supply; Manager and Chief Engineer of the Kauai County Department of Water; Director of the United States Department of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service Pacific Islands Area State Office; Executive Director of The



# H.R. NO. 100

1 Nature Conservancy of Hawaii; Executive Director of the Hawaii  
2 Farm Bureau; President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.;  
3 and Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of  
4 Hawaii.

5  
6  
7

OFFERED BY:

Richard King

[Signature]

[Signature]  
Lyn DeCotte

MAR 08 2019

