
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO FINANCE AND IMPLEMENT ALL NECESSARY UPGRADES TO THE COUNTY'S R-1 WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM, INCLUDING DESIGNATING AND UPGRADING FORMER PLANTATION RESERVOIRS FOR R-1 WATER STORAGE.

1 WHEREAS, injection wells are devices that place fluid deep
2 underground into porous geologic formations and serve as a safe
3 and inexpensive option for the disposal of unwanted and often
4 hazardous industrial byproducts; and

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6 WHEREAS, injection wells should be used in limited
7 circumstances, including for emergency disposal, but due to a
8 lack of storage or transportation options for reclaimed water,
9 injection wells are often used for the disposal of reclaimed
10 water in the State; and

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12 WHEREAS, in the County of Maui, an average of over
13 8,700,000 gallons of treated R-1 water is disposed of each day
14 using injection wells; and

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16 WHEREAS, this method of disposal causes groundwater
17 contamination, algae blooms, and coral reef damage in nearshore
18 waters; and

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20 WHEREAS, to mitigate these damages and prevent further
21 environmental harm, additional infrastructure is needed for the
22 treatment, distribution, and storage of reclaimed water for
23 subsequent use; and

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25 WHEREAS, generally, water is a valuable commodity that
26 should not be disposed of without careful consideration and
27 specifically, reclaimed water can often be used for beneficial
28 purposes, including irrigation of landscaping, rather than being
29 disposed of via injection wells; and



1 WHEREAS, the most impactful use of reclaimed water that has
2 been treated to meet the Department of Health's standards for
3 the highest recycled water level, known as R-1 water, is for
4 irrigation of agricultural lands and landscaping, as well as
5 emergency firefighting; and

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7 WHEREAS, in October 2019, brush fires in West Maui burned
8 an estimated four thousand one hundred acres of land, and many
9 thousands of gallons of water were used to fight these fires;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, equipping firefighters with access to stored
13 reclaimed water for fighting fires will increase public safety
14 and protect affected lands; and

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16 WHEREAS, fighting fires with saltwater alters the chemical
17 composition of the affected soil due to saltwater's elevated
18 salinity, and the use of saline on topsoil creates barren
19 landscapes unable to support plant life and intensifies erosion;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, without increasing the use of reclaimed water for
23 higher purposes, individuals in the State will experience a
24 shortage of potable drinking water, as potable drinking water is
25 overused for agricultural, landscaping, and firefighting
26 purposes; and

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28 WHEREAS, designating former plantation reservoirs to store
29 reclaimed water will provide firefighters with efficient access
30 to fresh water and enable easier access of that water for
31 agriculture and landscaping use for West Maui; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
35 2020, that the County of Maui is requested to finance and
36 implement all necessary upgrades to the county's R-1 water
37 delivery system, including designating and upgrading former
38 plantation reservoirs for R-1 water storage; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following reservoirs are
41 requested to be designated and upgraded for R-1 water storage:



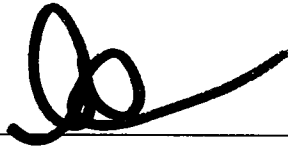
H.R. NO. 168

1 Field 140; Mahinahina; Crater; Kahoma; E-2; Makila; Kauaula;
2 Olowalu; and Ukumehame; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County of Maui, each member of the Maui County Council, and Director of the County of Maui Department of Water Supply.

OFFERED BY: _____



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MAR 06 2020

