
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that climate change
2 is occurring and is a priority issue for the State. Climate
3 change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's
4 economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

5 The legislature also recognizes that climate change creates
6 increased risks of both drought and sea level rise, making it
7 critical to maintain the State's water storage capabilities and
8 to protect downstream communities from flooding. To address
9 these risks, the Wahiawa dam and reservoir, which serves as a
10 major water supply for central and North Shore Oahu, must be
11 carefully monitored for safety and must be the subject of an
12 emergency intervention plan.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
14 department of land and natural resources to develop an emergency
15 intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir and to study
16 the feasibility of the State acquiring the Wahiawa dam and
17 reservoir.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources engineering division shall develop an emergency
3 intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.

4 (b) The Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention
5 plan shall identify:

- 6 (1) Communities that may need to evacuate in a dam
7 emergency, using inundation maps that highlight flood
8 areas and estimated travel times for floodwaters;
- 9 (2) The dam owner's responsibilities to ensure timely and
10 effective action in the event of an emergency;
- 11 (3) The respective responsibilities of the State and the
12 city and county of Honolulu and their areas of
13 jurisdiction in the event of a dam emergency;
- 14 (4) Potential defects in the dam and reservoir;
- 15 (5) Any aspects of the dam and reservoir that are not in
16 compliance with dam safety standards;
- 17 (6) Financing opportunities to bring the dam into safety
18 compliance if necessary; and
- 19 (7) Opportunities for public outreach in the adjacent and
20 downstream communities, for both the State and the dam
21 owner.



1 (c) The department of land and natural resources
2 engineering division shall submit the Wahiawa dam and reservoir
3 emergency intervention plan to the legislature no later than
4 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
5 2022.

6 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
7 shall study the feasibility of the State acquiring the Wahiawa
8 dam and reservoir and shall submit a report of its findings and
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
10 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the regular session of 2022.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
15 the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan and
16 study to determine the feasibility of the State acquiring the
17 Wahiawa dam and reservoir. The moneys shall be allocated as
18 follows:

19 (1) \$1,000,000 to develop the Wahiawa dam and reservoir
20 emergency intervention plan;



1 (2) \$ to create one full-time equivalent
 2 (1.0 FTE) permanent position in the department of land
 3 and natural resources engineering division dam safety
 4 program for a planner V to aid in the development of
 5 the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention
 6 plan and to assist in carrying out dam inspection,
 7 repair, and maintenance oversight pursuant to chapter
 8 179D, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

9 (3) \$3,000,000 to purchase necessary dam safety emergency
 10 intervention equipment, which may include a loader,
 11 excavator, tractor and flat-bed trailer, and other
 12 related dam supplies and materials which could include
 13 erosion control measures, as required to carry out the
 14 emergency intervention plan; and

15 (4) \$ to study the feasibility of the State
 16 acquiring the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 18 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; Wahiawa Dam and Reservoir; Emergency Intervention Plan;
Dam Safety; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources engineering division to develop an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. Requires the department of land and natural resources to study the feasibility of the State acquiring the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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