

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. As an island state, Hawai'i has limited access
2 to natural fresh water. Competition for fresh water, increasing
3 population and development pressures, the rising awareness of
4 environmental and cultural water needs, and the impacts of
5 climate change require that Hawai'i become as efficient as
6 possible in its uses of limited fresh water supplies. The
7 legislature finds that a water conservation program that
8 provides financial assistance to county-owned public water
9 systems and their customers to help implement water conservation
10 measures and practices will reduce water use or waste. County-
11 owned public water systems supply approximately two hundred
12 million gallons per day or eighty per cent of drinking water in
13 Hawai'i.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a financial
15 assistance pilot program to provide county-owned public water
16 systems with resources to implement conservation measures.



1 SECTION 2. There is established within the commission on
2 water resource management a two-year water conservation
3 financial assistance pilot program to provide financial
4 assistance to county-owned public water systems to implement
5 their respective water conservation incentive programs.

6 As used in this Act:

7 "Commission" means the commission on water resource
8 management.

9 "Public water system" has the same meaning as that term is
10 defined in section 340E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 3. To carry out the purposes of this Act, the
12 commission shall:

13 (1) Solicit proposals from county-owned public water
14 systems describing their proposed water conservation
15 incentive programs;

16 (2) Ensure that county-owned public water systems
17 administer and manage their water conservation
18 incentive programs and furnish information to the
19 commission documenting the total estimated amount of
20 water conserved under this program;



1 (3) Prioritize awards pursuant to this section for county-
2 owned public water systems where state funds are
3 matched or leveraged with non-state funds; and

4 (4) Provide financial assistance pursuant to this section
5 to county-owned public water systems on a reimbursable
6 basis through contracts or agreements.

7 Reimbursements made pursuant to this Act shall not exceed fifty
8 per cent of the total cost of each county water conservation
9 incentive program, including administrative costs.

10 SECTION 4. A county-owned public water system water
11 conservation incentive program may include:

12 (1) Rebate programs where county-owned public water
13 systems refund customers no more than fifty per cent
14 of the cost to install water conserving technologies
15 in residential, commercial, institutional, or
16 industrial settings; and

17 (2) Direct replacement programs where county-owned public
18 water systems pay for the total cost to install water
19 conserving technologies for customers in residential,
20 commercial, institutional, or industrial settings.



1 As used in this section, "water conserving technologies" means
2 equipment, appliances, and supplies that materially and
3 predictably reduce potable water use as determined by the
4 commission and may include rain barrels and cisterns, hot water
5 circulation pumps, soil moisture sensors, smart irrigation
6 controllers, turf grass replacement, air conditioning condensate
7 capture, multi-unit water sub-meters, WaterSense labeled water
8 saving products, high-efficiency toilets, grey-water systems,
9 and other devices, apparatus, or materials as determined and
10 approved by the commission on water resource management.

11 SECTION 5. In order to evaluate a program's effectiveness,
12 the commission shall:

- 13 (1) Review the county-owned public water system water
14 conservation incentive programs and determine the
15 amount of non-state matching funds;
- 16 (2) Determine the impact of the county-owned public water
17 system water conservation incentive programs on water
18 conservation in terms of water saved; and
- 19 (3) Make a recommendation to the legislature on whether
20 funding for the water conservation financial



S.B. NO. 649

1 assistance program should be expanded, extended, or
2 discontinued.

3 The commission shall submit a report of its findings and
4 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the regular session of 2021.

7 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2020-2021 for the two-year water conservation financial
12 assistance pilot program.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the commission
14 on water resource management for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019, and
16 shall repeal on June 30, 2021.

17

INTRODUCED BY:

Hal Rhoads



S.B. NO. 649

Report Title:

Water Conservation Rebate Program; Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems. Appropriates funds. Repeals June 30, 2021.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

