

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
WATERSHED COUNCILS.

1 WHEREAS, a watershed is an area of land, generally
2 designated by a valley or a mountain, where all water from rain
3 or springs flow into a common body of water; and
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5 WHEREAS, watershed management involves the development of
6 plans, programs and projects that work to restore, enhance and
7 protect ecological, social and cultural well-being within a
8 watershed boundary; and
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10 WHEREAS, there is concern that land owners or private
11 entities are profiting off of the resale of watershed lands
12 transferred or sold to them by the State with the State not
13 being adequately compensated; and
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15 WHEREAS, establishing a watershed council may remedy the
16 concern that the State is selling off a resource without
17 compensation and help protect and restore the State's
18 watersheds; and
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20 WHEREAS, it is recognized that many of the powers and
21 duties of protecting state watershed lands and watershed
22 management already rests with the Commission on Water Resource
23 Management and it may be determined that a watershed council is
24 unnecessary or would have overlapping duties; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
28 Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct
29 a feasibility study on the establishment of a watershed council
30 to be the decision-making body on the sale and transfer of water
31 and develop plans for the preservation and restoration of
32 watersheds; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
35 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report on its



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1 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 2 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 3 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 7 Land and Natural Resources and Commission on Water Resource
 8 Management.
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OFFERED BY:



Kurt Fella

