

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dams and reservoirs
2 are a critical part of the State's infrastructure, providing
3 numerous benefits that local communities depend upon. In
4 addition to storing and delivering a reliable source of water
5 for agriculture during dry periods, assisting with flood control
6 during large storms, and helping to mitigate erosion and reduce
7 sediment runoff to near shore ocean reefs, dams and reservoirs
8 also play an important role in providing drinking water for
9 Hawaii's residents.

10 The legislature further finds that the continued
11 availability and operation of dams and reservoirs is extremely
12 important in sustaining water resources and enhancing public
13 safety. By capturing storm water that would otherwise rush to
14 the ocean, reservoirs help to recharge groundwater aquifers,
15 which are a primary source for much of Hawaii's drinking water.
16 Providing renewable energy through the use of hydropower is



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1 another significant community benefit derived from dams and
2 reservoirs.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a dam and reservoir
4 working group to ensure and enhance the continued availability
5 and operation of dams and reservoirs in the State of Hawaii.

6 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a dam and reservoir
7 working group, to be placed within the department of land and
8 natural resources for administrative purposes only.

9 (b) Without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes, the dam and reservoir working group shall consist of
11 the following members:

12 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
13 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall
14 serve as the co-chairperson of the working group;

15 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
16 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the co-
17 chairperson of the working group;

18 (3) The deputy director for water resource management of
19 the department of land and natural resources or the
20 deputy director's designee;



- 1 (4) Two persons appointed by the governor, one of whom
- 2 shall represent the counties;
- 3 (5) One person selected by the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
- 4 to represent the council;
- 5 (6) One person selected by the Land Use Research
- 6 Foundation to represent the foundation;
- 7 (7) One person selected by the Hawaii Farm Bureau
- 8 Federation to represent the federation; and
- 9 (8) Three owners of dams and reservoirs regulated by the
- 10 department of land and natural resources to be
- 11 selected by the co-chairpersons of the working group.

12 Any vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the
13 manner provided for in the original appointments.

14 (c) The dam and reservoir working group shall review
15 applicable state laws, administrative rules, and operational
16 policies and recommend amendments, modifications, or actions to
17 be taken to ensure and enhance the continued availability and
18 operation of dams and reservoirs in the State.

19 (d) The dam and reservoir working group shall report its
20 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation, amendments to rules, policy modifications, or other



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1 actions, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
2 the convening of the regular session of 2024.

3 (e) The members of the working group shall serve without
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
5 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

6 (f) The dam and reservoir working group shall cease to
7 exist on June 30, 2024.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

9

INTRODUCED BY:





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Report Title:

Dam and Reservoir Working Group

Description:

Establishes a Dam and Reservoir Working Group to ensure and enhance the continued availability and operation of dams and reservoirs in the State.

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

