
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAI'I COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
INCREASING WATER ACCESS AND STRENGTHENING WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON HAWAI'I
ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, water is life; and

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3 WHEREAS, access to reliable water infrastructure and clean
4 drinking water is essential for personal and public health; and

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6 WHEREAS, a lack of access to a consistent water supply
7 prevents the development of basic infrastructure in rural and
8 remote areas, including the establishment of public schools,
9 medical and community health centers, grocery stores, and
10 financial institutions; and

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12 WHEREAS, many communities located on the southwestern side
13 of Hawai'i Island, including Ocean View, Miloli'i, and other
14 nearby subdivisions, lack access to county water infrastructure;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Hawai'i County Department of Water
18 Supply launched the Hawaiian Ocean View Estates Water Facilities
19 Project in Ocean View, which involved the construction of a
20 standpipe well for the community; and

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22 WHEREAS, despite the establishment of the well, water
23 access remains a significant challenge for residents of Ocean
24 View, Miloli'i, and neighboring communities, most of whose
25 residents continue to rely on catchment systems; and

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1 WHEREAS, areas that receive much less rainfall than the
2 southwestern part of Hawai'i Island, such as Waikoloa, have
3 reliable county water infrastructure which receives
4 approximately nine inches of rainfall per year on average in
5 comparison to the twenty-six inches of rainfall experienced each
6 year on average in Ocean View; and
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8 WHEREAS, inadequate water infrastructure represents a
9 glaring example of structural inequality for the southwestern
10 part of Hawai'i Island, which ranks below the state average in
11 household income, educational attainment, and other key social
12 and economic indicators; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i County
17 Department of Water Supply is requested to convene a working
18 group to examine opportunities for increasing water access and
19 strengthening water infrastructure for underserved communities
20 on Hawai'i Island; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Department of
23 Water Supply is urged to invite to participate in its working
24 group individuals with expertise in the development of water
25 resources in barren areas; faculty at the University of Hawai'i
26 who conduct research into water resource management; and
27 community members, including Native Hawaiian cultural
28 practitioners and members of the Native Hawaiian community; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
31 to submit a report on its efforts to increase access to water on
32 Hawai'i Island, including any findings, recommendations, and
33 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
34 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Hawai'i
38 County, Chairperson of the Hawai'i County Council, Chairperson of
39 the Hawai'i County Water Board, and Manager-Chief Engineer of the
40 Hawai'i County Department of Water Supply.

