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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that conserving Hawaii's  
2 finite water resources is essential to ensure the health of the  
3 State's fresh water supply. In response to the recent fuel  
4 spills at Red Hill, the city and county of Honolulu's board of  
5 water supply shut down one of Oahu's largest water sources, the  
6 Halawa shaft, which subsequently led to calls for water  
7 conservation on Oahu. Other counties, in response to equipment  
8 breakdowns, drought, and other circumstances, have also had to  
9 implement calls for water conservation multiple times in recent  
10 years.

11           The legislature also finds that residential irrigation is a  
12 major source of water use and, frequently, wasteful misuse.  
13 When water conservation measures are in effect, reducing or  
14 ceasing irrigation is always one of the first things residents  
15 are asked to do because using less water for irrigation has a  
16 large impact for a relatively small sacrifice. The legislature  
17 further finds that the practice of maintaining landscaping that



1 is not suited to the local climate requires more labor, money,  
2 time, and water than landscape installations that are  
3 drought-resistant, less water-intensive, and more suited to the  
4 local conditions.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys  
6 to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize  
7 residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace  
8 water-intensive landscaping with alternatives that reduce water  
9 use.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2024-2025 for the city and county of Honolulu to establish an  
15 irrigation water use reduction pilot program to provide:

16 (1) Incentives to residential homeowners in dry areas of  
17 Oahu that were previously served by the Aiea and  
18 Halawa wells who replace landscaping refurbishments  
19 with alternative refurbishments that:

20 (A) Lower water use;

21 (B) Include native species; and



1 (C) Support pollinators; and  
2 (2) Outreach services and education to the public  
3 concerning landscaping refurbishment alternatives that  
4 reduce water use;  
5 provided that no moneys appropriated shall be expended unless  
6 matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the city and county of  
7 Honolulu.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the city and  
9 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2024-2025 for the county of Hawaii to establish an irrigation  
15 water use reduction pilot program to provide:

16 (1) Incentives to residential homeowners in dry areas of  
17 west Hawaii who replace water-intensive landscaping  
18 refurbishments with alternative refurbishments that:

- 19 (A) Lower water use;  
20 (B) Include native species; and  
21 (C) Support pollinators; and



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1           (2) Outreach services and education to the public  
2                   concerning landscaping refurbishment alternatives that  
3                   reduce water use;

4 provided that no moneys appropriated shall be expended unless  
5 matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the county of Hawaii.

6           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
7 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

8           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Walter E. Lowen*  
JAN 25 2023



# H.B. NO. 1303

**Report Title:**

City and County of Honolulu; County of Hawaii; Water Use  
Reduction Pilot Programs; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use.

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