
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO
EXAMINE THE ALLOCATION OF WATER IN WEST MAUI AND IN
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, as a result of the wildfire that devastated
2 Lahaina on August 8, 2023, approximately two thousand two
3 hundred structures--eighty-six percent of which were
4 residential--were destroyed, resulting in approximately six
5 thousand individuals becoming homeless; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the water formerly supplying those six thousand
8 residents and two thousand two hundred structures had not been
9 utilized for the past six months; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has
12 cleared over two hundred fifty lots in Lahaina and anticipates
13 clearing two hundred lots per month; and

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15 WHEREAS, with a permanent debris-disposal site having been
16 confirmed, the rebuilding of homes and other structures can
17 begin soon; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Villages of Leialii development project,
20 administered by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
21 Corporation, will provide two hundred housing units in Lahaina;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, historically in West Maui, private landowners have
25 been diverting streams and digging wells for their own needs,
26 including the servicing of resorts and hotels, essentially
27 privatizing water resources; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Commission on Water Resource Management has
30 jurisdiction over the protection, conservation, and management
31 of the State's water resources; allocation of the State's water



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1 resources; and resolution of water-related disputes; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2024, that the Commission on Water Resource
7 Management is requested to examine the allocation of water in
8 West Maui and in emergency situations throughout the State,
9 including:

- 10
11 (1) The sources, management, and utilization of water for
12 Lahaina and the rest of West Maui; and
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14 (2) An analysis of how decisions regarding water
15 allocation in West Maui, the island of Maui, and the
16 rest of the State should be made in the future to
17 improve timely responses during emergency situations
18 that involve the need for water and to ensure that
19 private entities do not wield more power than the
20 State; and

21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Water
23 Resource Management is requested to submit a report of its
24 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
25 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
26 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of Land
30 and Natural Resources and Acting Deputy Director for Water
31 Resource Management.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 08 2024

