

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
AND COUNTY OF MAUI TO INVENTORY AND MAP EXISTING R-1 WATER  
DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND RESERVOIRS IN MAUI COUNTY.

1           WHEREAS, an average of more than 8,700,000 gallons of  
2 treated wastewater is disposed of every day using injection  
3 wells on the island of Maui, causing groundwater contamination,  
4 algae blooms, and coral reef damage in nearshore waters; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, to prevent and mitigate further environmental  
7 harm, additional infrastructure is needed for treatment,  
8 distribution, and storage of reclaimed water for subsequent use;  
9 and  
10

11           WHEREAS, the most desirable uses for reclaimed water are  
12 for emergency firefighting, and for irrigation of agricultural  
13 lands and landscaping; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in August 2023, a wildfire in Lahaina burned an  
16 estimated 2,170 acres, killing at least one hundred people,  
17 injuring many others, and destroying or damaging approximately  
18 two thousand two hundred structures; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, it is preferable to use recycled fresh water from  
21 reservoirs to fight wildfires, rather than ocean water, because  
22 the salinity from ocean water alters the chemical composition of  
23 the affected soil, leading to barren landscapes that are unable  
24 to support native plant life and experience intensified erosion,  
25 which carries the salinized soil to other areas; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, providing firefighters with access to stored  
28 reclaimed water with which to fight fires will increase public  
29 safety and protect affected lands; and  
30



1 WHEREAS, water is a scarce and valued commodity that should  
2 not be disposed of without careful consideration; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, without increasing the use of reclaimed water in  
5 the State, residents will encounter potable drinking water  
6 shortages caused by the overuse of potable drinking water for  
7 agricultural, landscaping, or firefighting purposes; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, using former plantation reservoirs to store  
10 reclaimed water will allow for easier access for agricultural  
11 and landscaping use for West Maui and will provide firefighters  
12 with efficient access to fresh water; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, an important first step in increasing the use of  
15 reclaimed water is to create accurate inventories and maps of  
16 existing R-1 water delivery systems and reservoirs that may be  
17 used for reclaimed water storage; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, R-1 water refers to water recycled from wastewater  
20 that has undergone oxidation, filtration, and disinfection; now,  
21 therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning  
26 and Sustainable Development and County of Maui are requested to  
27 create an inventory of, and produce maps that identify, existing  
28 R-1 water delivery systems and reservoirs on the island of Maui;  
29 and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and  
32 Sustainable Development and County of Maui are requested to  
33 submit the inventory and maps to the Legislature no later than  
34 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
35 2025; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director  
39 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the  
40 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and Mayor of the  
41 County of Maui.

