

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2025

RE: S.R. No. 36
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.R. No. 36 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH A DESALINATION PLANNING TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE USE OF DESALINATION FOR LARGE-SCALE WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE STATE IS FEASIBLE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to convene and provide administrative assistance to a Desalination Planning Task Force to determine whether the use of desalination for large-scale water consumption in the State is feasible.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that freshwater scarcity is an increasingly present threat to communities around the world in the face of population growth and climate change. Your Committee further finds that islands like Oahu rely on underground aquifers for their freshwater supply, which take decades to replenish naturally and are susceptible to chemical spills and leaks,



droughts, and commercial overuse. Your Committee further finds that desalination, the process of removing salt from seawater, offers a promising solution to the freshwater scarcity crisis. This measure requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine the feasibility of desalination for water consumption.

Your Committee notes the concern raised by the Department of Land and Natural Resources that the current level of staffing and resources at the Commission on Water Resources Management is not sufficient to complete the requested desalination study and provide a report to the Legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026. Therefore, your committee respectfully requests that subsequent committees to which this measure is referred consider delaying the report deadline to 2027.

Your Committee has amended this measure by amending its title to better reflect its purpose.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 36, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 36, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">SR 36</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">WTL</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">03/21/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Distribution: Original File with Committee Report </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Yellow Clerk's Office </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Pink Drafting Agency </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes