

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that municipal water
2 agencies have asked residents to conserve water due to severe
3 drought conditions, climate change, and the Oahu-based public
4 health crisis and environmental disaster caused by fuel released
5 from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

6 However, despite these calls for conservation, the
7 legislature finds that relevant agencies need additional means
8 to restrict certain nonessential uses of water, including water
9 for purely recreational or ornamental purposes. These
10 restrictions are required to ensure that water, the State's most
11 precious and finite resource, remains available to support human
12 health and safety and to ensure the maintenance of the State's
13 economic future.

14 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit a person, which is
15 defined for purposes of chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
16 to include firms, associations, organizations, partnerships,
17 business trusts, corporations, companies, and government



1 agencies, from using one million gallons or more of potable
2 water for recreational or ornamental purposes.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "§174C- Recreational or ornamental uses; restrictions
7 on use. (a) No person shall use, and no person issued a permit
8 pursuant to this chapter shall permit a person to use, one
9 million or more gallons of potable water per year for
10 recreational or ornamental uses.

11 (b) This section shall not apply to recreational or
12 ornamental uses of water that solely use recycled water.

13 (c) As used in this section:

14 "Recreational or ornamental use" means water that is used
15 solely for recreational or ornamental purposes, including but
16 not limited to:

17 (1) The filling or refilling of swimming pools, wading
18 pools, wave pools, or spas;

19 (2) Decorative ponds or lakes, fountains, or artificial
20 lakes; and



1 (3) Any other use of water determined by the commission to
2 be a recreational or ornamental use.

3 "Recycled water" means treated wastewater that by design is
4 intended or used for a beneficial purpose."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Kurt Favelle*



S.B. NO. 209

Report Title:

Water Use; Commission on Water Resource Management; Recreational or Ornamental Purposes; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the use of 1,000,000 or more gallons of water per year for recreational or ornamental purposes.

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