

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF ALLOWING BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE STATE TO UTILIZE FILTERED WATER COLLECTED BY WATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS FOR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, there is an imminent potable water shortage threat
2 that has left many individuals across the State without direct
3 or convenient access to safe drinking water; and

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5 WHEREAS, due to recent high-profile petroleum leaks coupled
6 with drought conditions, the Board of Water Supply of the City
7 and County of Honolulu was forced to take precautionary measures
8 and shut down the Hālawā Shaft, Hālawā Wells, and Aiea Wells,
9 further restricting access to potable water for local
10 communities; and

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12 WHEREAS, access to water is a prerequisite to addressing
13 many of the State's current problems relating to developing
14 affordable housing, empowering local businesses, diversifying
15 the economy, and improving the economic stability of the State's
16 most vulnerable residents; and

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18 WHEREAS, pursuing innovative solutions to decrease use of
19 the State's limited aquifers is critical to addressing the
20 fragility of the State's water system; and

21
22 WHEREAS, water catchment systems are one innovative
23 solution that can supplement potable water systems and conserve
24 natural resources by efficiently capturing and utilizing
25 rainwater while maintaining existing state water infrastructure,
26 including both municipal water and stormwater systems; and

27
28 WHEREAS, while a significant number of people in the State
29 are dependent on rainwater catchment as their primary domestic
30 water source, existing law allows captured water for personal
31 use only and prohibits the use of captured water for business
32 activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, revised guidelines from the College of Tropical
2 Agriculture and Human Resiliency at the University of Hawai'i at
3 Manoa outline a safe process for utilizing water captured for
4 personal use that can be appropriately applied to business
5 activities under certain regulatory conditions; and
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7 WHEREAS, studying the feasibility of allowing business
8 owners in the State to utilize filtered water collected by water
9 catchment systems for business activities is critical to
10 decrease Hawaii's dependency upon stressed aquifer and water
11 systems and assist in the diversification of the State's water
12 sources; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
16 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a Business
17 Activity Water Catchment System Working Group for business
18 activities; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
21 to consist of the following members:
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- 23 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
24 of the Senate, who is requested to serve as co-chair
25 of the working group;
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- 27 (2) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
28 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who is
29 requested to serve as co-chair of the working group;
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- 31 (3) Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 33 (4) One representative from each county's board or
34 department of water supply or department of water;
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- 36 (5) One member representing the public, appointed or
37 invited by the President of the Senate; and
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- 39 (6) One member representing the public, appointed or
40 invited by the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to assess and make recommendations on:

- 3
- 4 (1) The feasibility of allowing business owners in the
5 State to utilize filtered water collected by water
6 catchment systems for business activities, including
7 the types and sizes of businesses that are best suited
8 to implement water catchment systems for business
9 activities;
- 10
- 11 (2) The feasibility of establishing a Business Activity
12 Water Catchment System Testing Program within the
13 Department of Health that provides or otherwise
14 assists business owners in conducting annual testing
15 of filtered water produced from a water catchment
16 system for business activities, including determining
17 the types of chemicals or substances, in addition to
18 lead and copper, that need to be tested to ensure the
19 safety of the filtered water for business activities;
20
- 21 (3) How the State and counties can cooperate in ensuring
22 that water catchment systems utilized for business
23 activities are in compliance with applicable plumbing
24 codes; and
- 25
- 26 (4) Possible means by which the State can assist business
27 owners in safely utilizing filtered water from a water
28 catchment system for business activities; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Activity Water
31 Catchment System Working Group is requested to report its
32 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
33 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
34 to the convening of the regular session of 2027; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Activity Water
37 Catchment System Working Group is requested to dissolve on
38 June 30, 2027; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President
42 of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mayors



1 of each county, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water
2 Supply of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the
3 Department of Water Supply of the County of Maui, Manager-Chief
4 Engineer of the Department of Water Supply of the County of
5 Hawaii, and Manager and Chief Engineer of the Department of
6 Water of the County of Kauai.

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OFFERED BY:



