

A Bill for an Act Relating to Wastewater Reuse.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many areas of Hawaii are blessed with an abundance of freshwater. With increasing demands on Hawaii’s natural resources, however, the future sustainability of freshwater is of great concern. These increasing demands may soon outpace the available freshwater supply.

In other states where freshwater is in short supply, much attention is given to the reuse of wastewater through water recycling. The legislature finds that Hawaii should follow a similar path and encourage the use of recycled water, especially for agricultural and irrigation uses. Hawaii must proactively develop policies that encourage and support the reuse of treated wastewater effluent for beneficial purposes. State laws and rules need to be developed, amended, and clarified to encourage the reuse of water. Regulation and mitigation of possible health and environmental risks of recycling processed wastewater must be addressed. State laws and rules must also authorize the distribution and sale of recycled water and ensure that the cost of recycled water is reasonable, fair, and economically feasible for both the processor and water consumer.

SECTION 2. Section 342D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

““Recycled water” and “reclaimed water” mean treated wastewater that by design is intended or used for a beneficial purpose.”

SECTION 3. The director of health shall give priority to adopting rules, in accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to:

- (1) Establish the definition and requirements of different categories of recycled water and reclaimed water; and
- (2) Recognize different levels of water treatment and purpose.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved July 6, 1999.)