
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE WATER BOARDS FROM EACH COUNTY TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF LAUNCHING A WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM THAT
PROMOTES THE INSTALLATION OF RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS ON
RESIDENCES FOR NON-POTABLE USAGE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a finite amount of groundwater filtered
2 through the porous volcanic rock of each island; and

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4 WHEREAS, the United States General Accounting Office
5 predicts that Hawaii will experience shortages over the next
6 decade, and in particular, Maui and Oahu with areas of high
7 growth could tap out underground water supplies in less than
8 twenty years; and

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10 WHEREAS, past water shortages led the Maui County Council
11 to pass the "Show Me the Water" ordinance in December 2007,
12 which requires developers to substantiate a reliable long-term
13 water supply before receiving zoning or subdivision approvals,
14 with some exceptions; and

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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's geographic isolation makes the State
17 vulnerable in the event of a depleted watershed; and

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19 WHEREAS, roofs on residences offer ample square footage for
20 the collection of rainwater; and

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22 WHEREAS, in Australia, the world leader in the technology
23 for capturing rainwater, the Government of Queensland has a
24 model conservation program that provides rebates to homeowners
25 for the installation of rain catchment systems; and

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27 WHEREAS, in Japan there is no national legislation
28 governing the practice of rainwater harvesting, but local
29 governments are active in promoting rainwater harvesting by way
30 of subsidies, such as the City of Kobe, which will subsidize up
31 to two-thirds of the cost of installation; and



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WHEREAS, the state of Texas provides a Sales Tax Redemption for water efficiency equipment that includes rainwater harvesting systems; and

WHEREAS, the use of rain catchment systems is not new to Hawaii and has been historically used in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, expertise exists in Hawaii through Hawai'i Rainwater Catchment, a partnership website serving those who use rainwater catchment in Hawai'i, and whose partners include the Hawai'i Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, the County of Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and Natural Resources and Environmental Management; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of Hawaii's solar industry with rebates and tax credits serves as a model for a resource conservation initiative; and

WHEREAS, vendors now offer a wide range of economical systems for rainwater harvesting; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the water boards from each county are requested to study the feasibility of launching a water conservation program that promotes the installation of rainwater catchment systems on residences for non-potable usage, such as watering yards, washing cars, flushing toilets, etc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water boards from each county are requested to report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, on the feasibility of launching a water conservation program in their respective counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the County of Hawaii Water



H.C.R. NO. 200

1 Board, the County of Kauai Board of Water Supply, and the County
2 of Maui Board of Water Supply.

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OFFERED BY: *Nannina Iovito*

MAR 11 2008

