
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a wide range of geological issues,
2 including coastal erosion, limited ground and surface water,
3 rock falls and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,
4 depleted rock aggregate resources, and geothermal energy; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's activities related to these geological
7 issues are spread among a variety of state and county agencies,
8 such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission
9 on Water Resource Management and Office of Conservation and
10 Coastal Lands, the Department of Health, and the county water
11 supply departments; and
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13 WHEREAS, these state and county agencies serve specific
14 purposes for their respective agencies, potentially leaving gaps
15 in efforts to collect and analyze geologic data on issues of
16 importance to the State such as: geologic hazards, including but
17 not limited to earthquakes, coastal erosion and flooding, flash
18 flooding, rock falls, landslides, soil erosion, and volcanism;
19 and geologic resources, including but not limited to
20 groundwater, watersheds, rock quarrying, sand and gravel mining,
21 geothermal energy, reef management, wetland and dune management,
22 and beach and shoreline management; and
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24 WHEREAS, many mainland states have established a geological
25 survey, as a state agency that creates, interprets, and
26 disseminates applied earth science information to address
27 societal needs; and
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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of only two states that has never
30 received federal funds to perform geological studies; and
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32 WHEREAS, a Hawaii state geological survey could compete for
33 such federal funds and provide a broader range of geological
34 information; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2008, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
4 requested to conduct a study on establishing a geological survey
5 as a state agency in Hawaii; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include:

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9 (1) Identification of the needs or problems, if any, to be
10 addressed by a state geological survey;
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12 (2) Identification of existing resources and how those
13 resources are being used compared to a typical
14 geological survey agency in other states;
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16 (3) Identification of potential sources for additional
17 funding, staff, or other resources;
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19 (4) Research into mainland states' geological surveys,
20 their purpose, histories, structure, funding, and
21 other pertinent information;
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23 (5) Identification of alternative forms that may satisfy
24 any unmet needs, including but not limited to
25 consolidating existing geologist positions under a
26 single entity and seeking to expand the United States
27 Geological Survey's Hawaii office;
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29 (6) Identification of strengths and weaknesses of these
30 different alternatives; and
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32 (7) Recommendation as to whether a geological survey
33 should be established as a state agency in Hawaii and
34 potential issues that would need to be addressed;

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36 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
2 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to consult, as
3 necessary, with the following individuals, organizations, and
4 interest groups:

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- 6 (1) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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- 8 (2) Department of Health;
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- 10 (3) County water supply departments;
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- 12 (4) University of Hawaii;
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- 14 (5) United States Geological Survey; and
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- 16 (6) Any other organization or person that the Legislative
17 Reference Bureau deems appropriate; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
20 Bureau is requested to submit a report of any findings and
21 recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days before
22 the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the
26 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of
27 Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Health, the Mayor
28 and the Chairperson of the Council of each county, the director
29 of each county's water supply agency, the President of the
30 University of Hawaii, and the District Chief of the Hawaii
31 Office of the United States Geological Survey.
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