

MAR 13 2008

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# SENATE 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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2 WHEREAS, the state of Texas provides a Sales Tax Redemption  
3 for water efficiency equipment that includes rainwater  
4 harvesting systems; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the use of rain catchment systems is not new to  
7 Hawaii and has been historically used in rural areas; and  
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9 WHEREAS, expertise exists in Hawaii through Hawai'i  
10 Rainwater Catchment, a partnership website serving those who use  
11 rainwater catchment in Hawai'i, and whose partners include the  
12 Hawai'i Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, the County of  
13 Hawai'i, the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical  
14 Agriculture and Human Resources, and Natural Resources and  
15 Environmental Management; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the promotion of Hawaii's solar industry with  
18 rebates and tax credits serves as a model for a resource  
19 conservation initiative; and  
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21 WHEREAS, vendors now offer a wide range of economical  
22 systems for rainwater harvesting; now, therefore,  
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the water boards from  
27 each county are requested to study the feasibility of launching  
28 a water conservation program that promotes the installation of  
29 rainwater catchment systems on residences for non-potable usage,  
30 such as watering yards, washing cars, flushing toilets, etc.;  
31 and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water boards from each  
34 county are requested to report to the Legislature no later than  
35 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
36 2009, on the feasibility of launching a water conservation  
37 program in their respective counties; and  
38

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



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

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