
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MINIMIZE THE
IMPACT OF ANY INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES FOR THE MOLOKAI
IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
HOMESTEADERS AND FARMERS.

1 WHEREAS, the Board of Agriculture and the Department of
2 Agriculture are charged with the maintenance and operation of
3 the Molokai irrigation system, including, pursuant to section
4 167-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the setting of all rates and
5 charges; and

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7 WHEREAS, section 167-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, grants
8 the Board of Agriculture the power to fix and adjust rates and
9 charges so the revenues derived therefrom shall be sufficient to
10 cover the cost of operation, maintenance, replacement, any bond
11 debt service, and other charges necessary to cover the capital
12 cost of the system; and

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14 WHEREAS, those rates and charges for the Molokai irrigation
15 system are set forth in section 4-152-22, Hawaii Administrative
16 Rules (Department of Agriculture); and

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18 WHEREAS, customers of the Molokai irrigation system are
19 predominately homesteaders and farmers occupying Department of
20 Hawaiian Home Lands property; and

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22 WHEREAS, the homesteaders and farmers on the Hawaiian
23 homestead lands are concerned that any increase in rates and
24 charges for irrigation water may make it unfeasible or
25 impractical to continue agricultural activities on their
26 homestead lands; and

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28 WHEREAS, it is in the vital interest of the homesteaders
29 and farmers that they be allowed to continue their agricultural
30 activities on the homestead lands with reasonable water rates
31 and charges; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
3 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
4 of 2006, that the Board of Agriculture, in setting the rates and
5 charges for the Molokai irrigation system, is requested to limit
6 those charges to cover only the costs of operation, maintenance,
7 replacement, debt service, and other charges necessary to cover
8 the capital costs of the Molokai irrigation system, and not add
9 any additional surcharge that may be diverted from the Molokai
10 irrigation system; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture, in
13 consultation with the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users
14 Advisory Board, is requested to review the operations of the
15 Molokai irrigation system to determine any operational savings
16 that may be undertaken to keep rates and charges reasonable; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
20 Agriculture and the members of the Molokai Irrigation System
21 Water Users Advisory Board.

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OFFERED BY: Mele Canoe

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