

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. A viable agriculture industry requires a steady,
2 reliable supply of water. However, drought conditions continue
3 to adversely affect our farms and ranches, hampering our ability
4 to produce quality products on a consistent basis throughout the
5 year.

6 The legislature finds that to address the harmful impacts
7 of droughts, mitigation measures laid out in the Hawaii drought
8 plan must be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan
9 is to develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms while at
10 the same time outlining steps toward mitigating the effects of
11 future drought occurrences. The Hawaii drought plan provides
12 clear policies and specifies response entities to implement
13 immediate, short-term, and long-term response measures to
14 mitigate the impact of droughts.

15 The legislature also finds that in 2004, county drought
16 committees were formed for each of the four counties in Hawaii.
17 Each of the county drought committees developed a drought
18 mitigation strategy for its respective county, with a focus on



1 drought mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation
2 strategies represent the local needs and concerns of each county
3 and are incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

4 The legislature further finds that to adequately implement
5 the Hawaii drought plan, sufficient funding for the counties is
6 necessary to address the many challenges that our agriculture
7 industry faces in preparing for droughts.

8 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to pursue
9 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the
10 state.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
14 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the
15 state.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.
19

4. Kala Goh

INTRODUCED BY: *Jim*
Russell Kohl
Mike Gabbard

Report Title:

Drought Mitigation

Description:

Appropriates funds for drought mitigation projects in each county of the state.

