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# 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  
2 steady, reliable supply of water. However, drought conditions  
3 continue to adversely affect our farms and ranches, hampering  
4 our ability to produce quality products on a consistent basis  
5 throughout the 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  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
14 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the  
15 state; provided that the department of land and natural  
16 resources shall work with the drought committee of each county  
17 of the State so that at least one project is funded for each  
18 county.

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

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



**Report Title:**

Drought Mitigation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for drought mitigation projects in each county of the State. (SD1)

