

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. In October 2006, an earthquake devastated the
3 island of Hawaii, causing major infrastructure damage to the
4 intakes leading to the Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch system and
5 Waimea irrigation ditch system.

6 The Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch system intakes were
7 closed and little or no water was coming into the system. The
8 Waimea irrigation ditch system was also closed, but measures
9 were put in place to allow water to be pumped from a well into
10 the reservoir. While such measures worked fairly well, they
11 were only temporary fixes, and farmers in these areas remain
12 concerned about the reliability and availability of irrigation
13 water. Funding is urgently needed to return both systems to
14 full capacity.

15 A reliable irrigation system is the lifeline of Hawaii's
16 agricultural industry. The purpose of this part is to
17 appropriate funds for the repair and maintenance of both the



1 Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch system and Waimea irrigation
2 ditch system on the island of Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the
6 repair and maintenance of the Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch
7 system on the island of Hawaii.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the
13 repair and maintenance of the Waimea irrigation ditch system on
14 the island of Hawaii.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

17 PART II

18 SECTION 4. To provide relief in light of the damage done
19 to irrigation systems on the island of Hawaii after the 2006
20 earthquake, the department of agriculture has been using funds
21 from the irrigation system revolving fund to pay for expenses,
22 including the costs of hiring personnel for earthquake damage



1 assessment, contractors, pumping, and materials, supplies, and
2 equipment. Therefore, additional moneys are needed to reimburse
3 the irrigation system revolving fund.

4 The purpose of this part is to appropriate general funds to
5 be deposited into the department of agriculture's irrigation
6 system revolving fund to reimburse the fund.

7 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to be
10 deposited into the irrigation system revolving fund to reimburse
11 the fund for expenses incurred due to damage done to irrigation
12 systems on the island of Hawaii in the aftermath of the 2006
13 earthquake.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 agriculture for the purposes of this part.

16 PART III

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Island of Hawaii; Irrigation Systems; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the repair and maintenance of the Lower Hamakua Irrigation Ditch System and Waimea Irrigation Ditch System on the island of Hawaii. Appropriates funds to the irrigation system revolving fund to reimburse the fund for expenses incurred due to damage done to irrigation systems on the island of Hawaii in the aftermath of the 2006 earthquake.

