

JAN 29 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO GIVE THE SAME LEVEL OF PROTECTION TO WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AS THAT GIVEN TO DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY HAWAIIAN RIGHTS, AND THE PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE TO ACHIEVE A PROPER ECOLOGICAL BALANCE.

1 WHEREAS, water is a natural resource that is essential for
2 life and when used with care and understanding, is a benefit to
3 the community for growing crops, drinking, and for the
4 preservation of habitat and ecological resources and our way of
5 life; and

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7 WHEREAS, as an island state far removed from any landmass,
8 Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to disruption in its food
9 supply. With approximately 85 per cent to 90 per cent of its
10 food imported from sources outside of Hawaii, Hawaii is one of
11 the least self-sufficient states in the union and expends over
12 \$3,000,000,000 annually for imported food, money that if spent
13 in Hawaii could provide a tremendous stimulus to the local
14 economy; and

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16 WHEREAS, our state Constitution specifically calls for the
17 conservation and protection of agricultural lands, promotion of
18 diversified agriculture, and assuring agricultural self
19 sufficiency; and

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21 WHEREAS, agriculture depends on water to be viable.
22 Agriculture, and the water it needs, is a part of the public
23 trust; and

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25 WHEREAS, water for agriculture impacts our core value that
26 Hawai'i should remain a viable agricultural state in the midst
27 of continued urbanization; and

1 WHEREAS, agriculture contributes to the visitor industry by
2 maintaining vast green open spaces and the rural lifestyle that
3 visitors associate with their image of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, believe because of its
8 importance, water for agriculture should be given the same level
9 of protection as that given to domestic consumption, the
10 protection of traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, and the
11 protection of fish and wildlife to achieve a proper ecological
12 balance; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commission on Water
16 Resource Management.

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20 OFFERED BY: _____

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21 BY REQUEST
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