

JAN 23 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**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 the State's farms and ranches,  
4 hampering their ability to produce quality products on a  
5 consistent basis 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 designates entities to implement immediate,  
13 short-term, and long-term response measures to mitigate the  
14 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



1 mitigation strategy for its respective county, with a focus on  
2 drought mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation  
3 strategies represent the local needs and concerns of each county  
4 and are incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

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

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

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2010-2011 for drought mitigation projects and measures in each  
17 county of the State; provided that the department of land and  
18 natural resources shall work with the drought committee of each  
19 county of the State so that at least one project is funded for  
20 each county.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
22 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Optm Hee  
BY REQUEST



**Report Title:**

Drought Mitigation; Appropriation

**Description:**

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

