
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that construction on the
2 Molokai irrigation system was started in 1957 to provide water
3 to the central farming areas of Molokai as part of a federal and
4 state commitment to native Hawaiian homesteaders, consistent
5 with the objectives of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920,
6 as amended, to enable native Hawaiians to return to their lands
7 and promote self-sufficiency. The provision of adequate amounts
8 of water at a reasonable rate for agricultural operations on
9 Hawaiian home lands remains central to this policy.

10 The legislature further finds that the high cost of water
11 delivery is causing a hardship on Hawaiian homestead farmers,
12 making it difficult for some lessees to pay their water bill.
13 In the past, the state department of agriculture offered a
14 discounted rate to Molokai irrigation system water users.
15 However, this discounted rate was eliminated in 2009 due to a
16 significant drop in water consumption and consequent reduction
17 in revenues.



1 The purpose of this Act is to carry out the objectives of
2 the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, by:

3 (1) Providing water to Molokai irrigation system water
4 users who lease tracts of Hawaiian home lands under
5 section 207 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act,
6 1920, as amended, at a reduced rate;

7 (3) Forgiving loans to Molokai homesteaders that were
8 previously incurred; and

9 (2) Appropriating funds to cover the operational costs of
10 the Molokai irrigation system.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall
12 provide water to Molokai irrigation system users who lease
13 tracts of Hawaiian home lands under section 207 of the Hawaiian
14 Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, at a reduced rate of at
15 least per cent but not more than per cent of the
16 standard rate from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2013.

17 (b) The department of agriculture shall forgive all
18 amounts owed by any Molokai homestead farmer for the provision
19 of irrigation water that are past due as of the effective date
20 of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



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1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
2 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
3 fiscal year 2012-2013 to cover the operational costs of the
4 Molokai irrigation system.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2011



Report Title:

Molokai Irrigation System; Homestead Lessees

Description:

Directs the Department of Agriculture to provide water to Molokai Irrigation System users who lease tracts of land under section 207 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, at a reduced rate. Requires the Department of Agriculture to forgive past due bills for the provision of irrigation water for Molokai homestead farmers.

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