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# 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 bills.  
13 In the past, the department of agriculture offered a discounted  
14 rate to Molokai irrigation system water users. However, this  
15 discounted rate was eliminated in 2009 due to a significant drop  
16 in water consumption and consequent reduction in revenues.

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

HB1483 HD1 HMS 2011-2557



- 1 (1) Providing water to Molokai irrigation system water  
2 users who lease tracts of Hawaiian home lands under  
3 section 207 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act,  
4 1920, as amended, at a reduced rate;
- 5 (2) Forgiving loans that were previously incurred by  
6 Molokai homesteaders; and
- 7 (3) Appropriating funds to cover the operational costs of  
8 the Molokai irrigation system.

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

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the  
22 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for



1 fiscal year 2012-2013 to cover the operational costs of the  
2 Molokai irrigation system.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



**Report Title:**

Molokai Irrigation System; Homestead Lessees

**Description:**

Requires 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 amounts owed by Molokai homestead farmers for irrigation water. Appropriates funds to cover the operational costs of the Molokai irrigation system. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB1483 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

