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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a viable agriculture  
2 industry requires a steady, reliable supply of water. However,  
3 drought conditions continue to adversely affect local farms and  
4 ranches, hampering their ability to produce quality products on  
5 a consistent basis throughout the year.

6           The legislature believes that to address the harmful impact  
7 of droughts, mitigation measures in the Hawaii drought plan must  
8 be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan is to  
9 develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms and to outline  
10 steps toward mitigating the effects of future droughts. The  
11 Hawaii drought plan provides clear policies and directs  
12 responsible agencies to implement immediate, short-term and  
13 long-term response measures to mitigate the impact of droughts.

14           The legislature also finds that in 2004, county drought  
15 committees were formed for each of the four counties in Hawaii.  
16 Each of the county drought committees developed a drought  
17 mitigation strategy for its respective county, emphasizing  
18 drought mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation



1 strategies represent the local needs and concerns of each county  
2 and are incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

3 The legislature further finds that to implement the Hawaii  
4 drought plan adequately, sufficient funding to the counties is  
5 necessary to address the many challenges that the State's  
6 agriculture industry faces in preparing for droughts.

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

10 SECTION 2. 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 2011-2012 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2012-2013 for a grant-in-aid to the counties for agricultural  
15 drought mitigation measures and projects, to be allocated as  
16 follows:

17	County of Hawaii	\$
18	County of Kauai	\$
19	County of Maui	\$
20	City and county of Honolulu	\$
21	Total	\$



1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the appropriate  
2 county department of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and  
3 the city and county of Honolulu, respectively.

4           SECTION 3. Each of the county drought committees shall  
5 submit a report to the legislature, no later than twenty days  
6 prior to the convening of the 2012 regular session, on the  
7 status of that county's drought mitigation projects. Each  
8 report shall include:

- 9           (1) The actions and steps taken to pursue and implement  
10 new projects to mitigate the effect of future  
11 droughts;
- 12           (2) The status and progress of existing drought mitigation  
13 strategies, including existing drought mitigation  
14 projects; and
- 15           (3) The actions taken to draw upon available federal funds  
16 to support drought mitigation projects and, where no  
17 action has been taken to draw upon federal funds, an  
18 explanation for the inaction.

19           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval;  
20 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2011.



**Report Title:**

Drought Mitigation; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the counties for drought mitigation purposes. Requires the counties to report to the Legislature on the status of drought mitigation projects. (HB1231 HD1)

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

