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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. Further, recent long  
6 term weather predictions indicate extended droughts interspersed  
7 with storms of great intensity.

8           The legislature believes that to address the harmful impact  
9 of droughts, mitigation measures in the Hawaii drought plan must  
10 be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan is to  
11 develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms and to outline  
12 steps toward mitigating the effects of future droughts. The  
13 Hawaii drought plan provides clear policies and directs  
14 responsible agencies to implement immediate, short-term, and  
15 long-term response measures to mitigate the impact of droughts.  
16 In addition to traditional reservoirs that capture surface water  
17 for later use, other techniques such as rain harvesting have  
18 proven beneficial in other areas of the world.



1           The legislature also finds that in 2004, county drought  
2 committees were formed for each of the four counties in Hawaii.  
3 Each of the county drought committees developed a drought  
4 mitigation strategy for its respective county, emphasizing  
5 drought mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation  
6 strategies represent the local needs and concerns of each county  
7 and are incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

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

12           The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for drought  
13 mitigation projects and measures in each county of the State.

14           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for a  
17 grant-in-aid to the counties for agricultural drought mitigation  
18 measures and projects, with emphasis on stormwater capture/reuse  
19 projects, to be allocated as follows:

20	County of Hawaii	\$1,000,000
21	County of Kauai	\$1,000,000
22	County of Maui	\$1,000,000



1	City and county of Honolulu	\$1,000,000
2	Total	\$4,000,000

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

6 SECTION 3. Each of the county expending departments shall  
7 submit a report to the legislature, no later than twenty days  
8 prior to the convening of the 2014 regular session, on the  
9 status of that county's drought mitigation projects. Each  
10 report shall include:

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



**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. (HB2832 HD1)

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

