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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT  
DIFFERENTIATED WATER TOLL RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE HAMAKUA  
DISTRICT IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the State has recognized the importance of a self-  
2 sufficient and sustainable economy; and

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4 WHEREAS, approximately ninety per cent of all food consumed  
5 in Hawaii is imported into the State; and

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7 WHEREAS, the welfare of Hawaii's people would be enhanced  
8 by developing agricultural production and processing as fully as  
9 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural  
10 crops, the production of livestock and poultry, aquaculture and  
11 aquaponics, and the production and processing of other  
12 agricultural products; and

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14 WHEREAS, expanding Hawaii's agricultural sector, with the  
15 resulting local purchases of Hawaii-grown and -processed  
16 agricultural products, would significantly benefit the State's  
17 economy, revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector, and contribute  
18 to job creation and career opportunities for farmers, producers  
19 of agricultural products, ranchers, and others engaged in  
20 ancillary agricultural businesses; and

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22 WHEREAS, each island of Hawaii has substantial natural  
23 water resources that are not currently being effectively used  
24 and conserved for agricultural purposes, but that can, on a  
25 sustainable basis, be used in greater quantities to expand and  
26 enhance the State's agricultural sector and production; and

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28 WHEREAS, the high cost of water delivery is causing  
29 hardships to farmers growing, and desiring to grow, agricultural  
30 crops and poultry, ranchers engaged in the production of  
31 livestock, and others desiring to develop aquaculture and  
32 aquaponics, thereby making it difficult to continue, or



1 undertake, a sustainable agricultural business and therefore  
2 adversely affecting Hawaii's agricultural productivity; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the irrigation systems that currently exist  
5 provide water in different areas on the islands of Hawaii, and  
6 the costs of operating and maintaining these systems differ  
7 depending upon the location of these irrigation systems; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the water toll rates and charges for the delivery  
10 of water to agricultural users in these irrigation systems have  
11 been at a uniform rate on a state-wide basis, which imposes  
12 hardships on farmers, ranchers, and others engaged in the  
13 growing of agricultural crops, including aquaculture and  
14 aquaponics, and the production of livestock and poultry located  
15 in these different irrigation systems located on different  
16 islands of the State; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the existing water toll rates and charges do not  
19 take into account the levels and amounts that are appropriate  
20 for these different irrigation systems in these different  
21 locations in order to promote the increased agricultural and  
22 livestock and poultry production in these different areas, and  
23 do not take into account the different classes of users who  
24 often use different amounts of water for agricultural  
25 production; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the Board of Agriculture, under chapters 141, 167,  
28 and 168, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is authorized to develop  
29 irrigation systems and to set water toll rates and charges; and  
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31 WHEREAS, as an initial step toward establishing the system  
32 of differentiated water toll rates for different irrigation  
33 systems and for different classes of users, the implementation  
34 of such a differentiated system for the Hamakua District  
35 irrigation system would provide opportunities to use for  
36 agricultural production the District's unused water that  
37 currently flows to the sea; now, therefore,  
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
40 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
41 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
42 Agriculture is requested to implement differentiated water toll  
43 rates and charges for the Hamakua District irrigation system as  
44 a first step toward establishing a system of differentiated



1 water toll rates and charges for the different irrigation  
2 systems and for different classes of users located throughout  
3 the State in order to more fully promote the development and  
4 expansion of agricultural activities and processing, including  
5 the growing of agricultural crops and the production of  
6 livestock and poultry on irrigated lands; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
9 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
11 2014 on the status and progress of the Department's  
12 implementation of differentiated water toll rates and charges  
13 for the Hamakua District irrigation system; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
17 Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic  
18 Development, and Tourism, the Director of Health, the  
19 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
20 Education, the Mayor of the County of Hawaii, the Mayor of the  
21 County of Maui, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,  
22 the Mayor of the County of Kauai, the Chairperson of the Board  
23 of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the President  
24 of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and the Commander of the  
25 United States Pacific Command.

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OFFERED BY: *Juanita*

*Juanita Woolley*  
MAR 12 2013

