

FEB 19 2013

SENATE 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

13
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

21
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

27
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
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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,
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
41 House of Representatives 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
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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:

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