

FEB 19 2013

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

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



1 processing, including the growing of agricultural crops and the  
2 production of livestock and poultry on irrigated lands; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
5 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
6 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
7 2014 on the status and progress of the Department's  
8 implementation of differentiated water toll rates and charges  
9 for the Hamakua District irrigation system; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
13 Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
14 Tourism, the Director of Health, the Chairperson of the Board of  
15 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Mayor of the  
16 County of Hawaii, the Mayor of the County of Maui, the Mayor of  
17 the City and County of Honolulu, the Mayor of the County of  
18 Kauai, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Chamber  
19 of Commerce of Hawaii, the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
20 Federation, and the Commander of the United States Pacific  
21 Command.  
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