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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT A SCHEDULE OF REDUCED IRRIGATION WATER TOLL RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AND HAMAKUA DISTRICT THAT DIFFERENTIATES AMONG DIFFERENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM AREAS AND AGRICULTURAL USERS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF HAWAII-GROWN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THROUGH INCREASED USE OF IRRIGATION WATER.

1 WHEREAS, section 26-16(b) and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 authorizes the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to, among  
3 other things:

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- 5 (1) Identify problems related to agriculture and the  
6 appropriate state agencies and departments needed to  
7 solve the problems;
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- 9 (2) Promote the conservation, development, and utilization  
10 of agricultural resources in the State; and
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- 12 (3) Assist the farmers of the State and any others engaged  
13 in agriculture by research projects, dissemination of  
14 information, crop and livestock reporting service,  
15 market news service, and any other means of improving  
16 the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and  
17 increasing the productivity of the lands; and
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19 WHEREAS, chapter 167, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to  
20 irrigation water development, authorizes the Department of  
21 Agriculture to, among other things, charge and collect water  
22 tolls, fees, and other charges; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has recognized the importance  
25 of a self-sufficient and sustainable economy; and

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27 WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of all food consumed  
28 in Hawaii is imported into the State; and

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30 WHEREAS, although agricultural products are grown in  
31 Hawaii, the welfare of Hawaii's people will be enhanced by  
32 developing agricultural production and processing as fully as



1 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural  
2 crops, the production of livestock and poultry, aquaculture and  
3 aquaponics, and the production and processing of other  
4 agricultural products; and

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6 WHEREAS, expanding Hawaii's agricultural sector, with the  
7 resulting local purchases of Hawaii-grown and processed  
8 agricultural products, would significantly benefit the State's  
9 economy, revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector, and  
10 contribute to job creation and career opportunities for  
11 farmers, producers of agricultural products, ranchers, and  
12 other engaged in ancillary agricultural businesses; and

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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii has substantial natural water resources on  
15 each of the islands that are not currently being effectively  
16 used and conserved for agricultural purposes but that can, on a  
17 sustainable basis, be used in greater quantities to expand and  
18 enhance Hawaii's agricultural sector and production; and

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20 WHEREAS, on the island of Hawaii, the high cost of water  
21 delivery is causing a hardship on farmers growing and desiring  
22 to grow agricultural crops and poultry, ranchers engaged in the  
23 production of livestock, and others desiring to develop  
24 aquaculture and aquaponics, thereby making it difficult to  
25 continue or undertake a sustainable agricultural business and  
26 adversely affecting the island of Hawaii's agricultural  
27 productivity; and

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29 WHEREAS, the irrigation systems that currently exist  
30 provide water in different areas on the island of Hawaii, and  
31 the costs of operating and maintaining these systems differ  
32 depending upon the location of these irrigation systems; and

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34 WHEREAS, the water toll rates and charges for the delivery  
35 of water to agricultural users in these irrigation systems have  
36 been at a uniform rate on a statewide basis, which imposes  
37 hardships on farmers, ranchers, and others on the island of  
38 Hawaii engaged in the growing of agricultural crops, including  
39 aquaculture and aquaponics, and the production of livestock and  
40 poultry located in these different irrigation systems located on  
41 different islands of Hawaii; and

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43 WHEREAS, the existing water toll rates and charges do not  
44 take into account the levels and amounts of water that are



1 appropriate for the various irrigation systems on the island of  
2 Hawaii to promote increased agricultural, livestock, and poultry  
3 production in these different areas, and do not take into  
4 account the different classes of users who often use different  
5 amounts of water for agricultural production; and

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7 WHEREAS, a system of differentiated water toll rates would  
8 provide opportunities to use for agricultural production the  
9 currently unused water on the island of Hawaii that currently  
10 flows to the sea; and

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12 WHEREAS, as an initial step toward implementing a system of  
13 differentiated water toll rates for different irrigation systems  
14 and for different classes of users, there should be established  
15 and implemented a differentiated water toll system for the  
16 island of Hawaii's and Hamakua District's irrigation system to  
17 provide opportunities to use, for agricultural production,  
18 unused water that currently flows to the sea; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,  
22 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to implement a  
23 schedule of reduced irrigation water toll rates and charges for  
24 the island of Hawaii and Hamakua District that differentiates  
25 among different irrigation system areas and agricultural users  
26 for growing of agricultural crops and the production of  
27 livestock and poultry to promote the development and expansion  
28 of Hawaii-grown agricultural commodities through increased use  
29 of irrigation water; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
32 is requested to report to the Legislature on the implementation  
33 of a system of reduced water toll rates for the island of  
34 Hawaii and Hamakua District, as described above, no later than  
35 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
36 2014; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
40 Agriculture; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
41 Tourism; Director of Health; Mayor of the County of Hawaii;  
42 Chairperson of the Water Board of the County of Hawaii;  
43 Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Chamber of Commerce



1 of Hawaii; President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and  
2 Commander of the United States Pacific Command.  
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