

MAR 07 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEFER
LEASE PAYMENTS ON PASTURE LEASES FOR TWO YEARS TO AFFORD
LEASEHOLDERS A REPRIEVE FROM DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the island of Hawaii and the island of Maui have
2 experienced severe drought conditions; and
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4 WHEREAS, the drought information statement of the National
5 Weather Service, Honolulu, on January 9, 2014, stated that a
6 late December storm finally brought significant rainfall to the
7 Big Island and Maui; however, most of the rainfall provided only
8 limited relief to the worst drought areas, and as a result
9 extreme drought (D3 category) on the U.S. Drought Monitor Map
10 remained over portions of the Big Island and Maui; and
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12 WHEREAS, KITV news reported on August 23, 2013, that
13 drought conditions are evaporating Hawaii's cattle industry,
14 stating, "No rain means no grass for cows, no grass for cows
15 means ranchers have to export their livestock"; and
16

17 WHEREAS, in the same KITV report, the Department of
18 Agriculture stated, "Because without the feed, the grass, they
19 need to take their stock down and it basically devastates those
20 ranchers. The industry is experiencing a downturn"; and
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22 WHEREAS, cattle ranchers who hold pasture leases with the
23 Department of Land and Natural Resources are unable to maintain
24 the health of their animals due to the severe and persistent
25 drought; and
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27 WHEREAS, the lack of income of cattle ranchers forces them
28 to be in arrears of their lease payments on their pasture lands
29 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014,
33 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
34 to defer lease payments on pasture leases for two years to
35 afford leaseholders a reprieve from drought conditions; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
4 Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

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