
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the development of
2 non-potable water resources for farms and ranches in South
3 Kohala on the island of Hawaii is critically necessary to meet
4 the demand for food self-sufficiency, address food security,
5 expand the agricultural economy, and address drought migration.
6 The legislature believes that a water development plan that uses
7 the upper Hamakua ditch will help the region achieve its goal of
8 becoming a key producer of locally grown food for the State.
9 The legislature further finds that a regional agriculture water
10 development plan will identify the storage and distribution
11 improvements necessary to increase capacity.

12 The legislature further finds that an increased water
13 capacity will lead to significant increases in diversified
14 agriculture and the establishment of new and larger crop fields
15 for produce and livestock feed. Those improvements will create
16 opportunities to assist the economy in the region and in the
17 State. Money diverted from imported food to locally sourced



1 food will boost the State's economy. Further, the irrigation
2 improvements sought have the potential to generate a return on
3 investment of \$5 to \$10 every year in agriculture revenue for
4 every \$1 invested.

5 The purpose of this Act is to support the farming and
6 ranching industries in South Kohala on the island of Hawaii by
7 appropriating moneys for planning and engineering studies and
8 designs for construction of:

- 9 (1) Water source development;
- 10 (2) Renewable energy sources for agricultural development
11 and delivery; and
- 12 (3) A reservoir to service the agricultural lands
13 surrounding Waimea on the island of Hawaii.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for a
17 planning and engineering water and renewable energy study and
18 for the design of new water and associated energy resources
19 located in South Kohala on the island of Hawaii.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for a
4 planning and engineering study for the design and construction
5 of a reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding
6 Waimea on the island of Hawaii, including Lalamilo and Puukapu.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
8 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Cindy Evans*

JAN 13 2016



H.B. NO. 1539

Report Title:

Agriculture; South Kohala; Waimea; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to the department of agriculture for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of water source development, renewable energy sources for agricultural development and delivery, and a reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea.

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