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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a viable agriculture  
2 industry requires a steady, reliable supply of water. However,  
3 drought conditions continue to affect farms and ranches,  
4 hampering their ability to produce quality products on a  
5 consistent basis throughout the year.

6           The legislature believes that to address the harmful impact  
7 of droughts, mitigation measures laid out in the Hawaii drought  
8 plan must be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan  
9 is to develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms while at  
10 the same time outlining steps toward mitigating the effects of  
11 future drought occurrences. The Hawaii drought plan provides  
12 clear policies and specifies response entities to implement  
13 immediate, short-term, and long-term response measures to  
14 mitigate the impact of droughts.

15           The legislature finds that in 2004, county drought  
16 committees were formed for each of the four counties of Hawaii.  
17 Each county drought committee developed a drought mitigation



1 strategy for its respective county, with a focus on drought  
2 mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation strategies  
3 represent the local needs and concerns of each county and are  
4 incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

5 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's changing  
6 climate requires updated mitigation strategies and planning to  
7 protect water conservation efforts and implement the Hawaii  
8 drought plan.

9 In 2007, the Honorable Clift Tsuji, then chair of the House  
10 committee on agriculture, successfully sponsored drought  
11 mitigation legislation that appropriated \$4,000,000 to implement  
12 the Hawaii drought plan and address the many challenges faced by  
13 Hawaii's agriculture industry in preparing for droughts.  
14 Subsequently, in 2015, Representative Tsuji introduced  
15 legislation requesting additional funding to continue the  
16 important drought mitigation efforts and to update the Hawaii  
17 drought plan. That legislation failed to pass. Accordingly,  
18 the need for additional funding, as proposed by this Act,  
19 remains.

20 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to pursue  
21 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the



1 State and support drought mitigation planning by updating the  
2 Hawaii drought plan through the State's commission on water  
3 resource management.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the  
5 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
6 necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
8 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the  
9 State.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the  
13 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
14 necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
16 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent  
17 planner IV position within the commission on water resource  
18 management to update the Hawaii drought plan and carry out the  
19 purposes of this Act.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
21 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. Contractors and other third parties who receive  
2 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by  
3 the department of land and natural resources, the attorney  
4 general, or the auditor. Upon request by such agencies, the  
5 contractor or third-party shall be required to submit for review  
6 all files, records, documents, and accounting related to the use  
7 and expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Act, whether  
8 the funds were received via a contract, grant, or other  
9 agreement.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Drought Mitigation; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for county drought mitigation projects and measures. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent permanent planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to update the Hawaii drought plan. (HB630 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

