
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IRRIGATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that reliable irrigation
2 is the lifeline of Hawaii's agricultural industry. To ensure
3 that Hawaii's crops receive a steady and dependable supply of
4 water, sufficient funding is needed to maintain and improve
5 Hawaii's irrigation systems. The increasing number of extended
6 drought events caused by climate change highlight the need for
7 timely repair and maintenance of these systems.

8 The legislature further finds that one of the most
9 important irrigation systems in the State is the Waiahole
10 irrigation system that services many agricultural producers in
11 central Oahu. Agriculture in central Oahu has become the
12 primary center of diversified crop farming covering
13 approximately 5,866 acres of prime agricultural land.

14 The legislature also finds that the agribusiness
15 development corporation which is administratively attached to
16 the department of agriculture manages the Waiahole irrigation
17 system. The agribusiness development corporation plans to build



1 more water storage capacity and a backup well system to ensure
2 water security for farming in the central plains of Oahu. These
3 capital improvements will provide long-term benefits in improved
4 system efficiency as well as in planning for natural disasters
5 such as droughts or for potential system failure.

6 The purpose of this Act is to provide additional funding
7 for improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system.

8 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
9 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
11 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2017-2018
12 for the purpose of making capital improvements to the Waiahole
13 irrigation system.

14 SECTION 3. The sums appropriated in section 2 of this Act
15 shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the
16 purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. The appropriations made for the capital
18 improvement project authorized in section 2 of this Act shall
19 not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the
20 appropriations are made; provided that all moneys that are
21 unencumbered as of June 30, 2020, shall lapse as of that date.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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Report Title:

Irrigation; General Obligation Bonds; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

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