

MAR 10 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS IN PROVIDING AN EASEMENT TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR WATER IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's agricultural production is insufficient
2 to meet the State's food consumption needs, resulting in an
3 over-reliance on imported food that creates critical health,
4 safety, and security issues for Hawaii; the State's sustainable
5 future; and preparedness in the event of future disaster,
6 emergency, or crisis; and
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8 WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under article XI,
9 section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution to conserve and
10 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,
11 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the
12 availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and
13

14 WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under article XI,
15 section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution to protect, control
16 and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit
17 of the people of Hawaii; and
18

19 WHEREAS, over the past few years, the State has made it a
20 priority to shift toward sustainability in agriculture and
21 decreasing food imports; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the
24 Hawaii State Planning Act to create a new state policy to
25 promote economically competitive activities that increase
26 Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency, including the increased
27 purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by
28 residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and
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30 WHEREAS, on September 1, 2016, the Governor pledged a
31 commitment for Hawaii to double its food production by 2020, and
32 has prioritized making more land available for agriculture as a
33 way to accomplish that objective; and
34



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1 WHEREAS, large tracts of agricultural land, including those
2 formerly used for pineapple and sugar cane, are now fallow; and
3

4 WHEREAS, these lands provide a unique opportunity for the
5 State to fulfill the intent of the Hawaii State Constitution
6 regarding diversified agriculture and agricultural self-
7 sufficiency through acquisition of suitable agricultural land
8 for long-term leases for diversified, bona fide agricultural
9 operations to increase agricultural production; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State is working with the local agriculture
12 industry to provide farmers the infrastructure and resources,
13 such as land and water, to increase agricultural activity on
14 fallow lands; and
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16 WHEREAS, Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, appropriated
17 \$2,500,000 for the plan and design for a new wastewater
18 reclaimed water irrigation system at the Wahiawa Wastewater
19 Treatment Plant; and
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21 WHEREAS, rules and recycled water guidelines adopted by the
22 Department of Health allow, as suitable uses of recycled water,
23 the irrigation of food crops where recycled water contacts the
24 edible portion of the crop, including all root crops; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the State has acquired over 1,900 acres of
27 agricultural land in the Central Oahu and North Shore area which
28 require irrigation for food production; and
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30 WHEREAS, the State has a plan to use the 1,000,000 gallons
31 of R1 water from the Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment Plant for food
32 crops; now, therefore,
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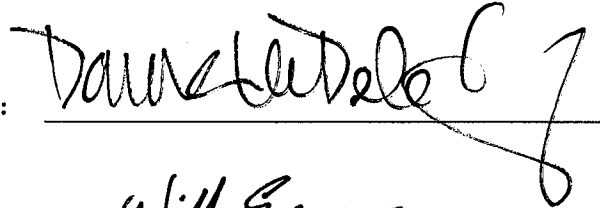
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
36 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested
37 to assist the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in providing an
38 easement to the Agribusiness Development Corporation for water
39 irrigation infrastructure on property owned by the Office of
40 Hawaiian Affairs, TMK No. 71001045, 71001046, and 71001050; and
41



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
4 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Executive Director of the
5 Agribusiness Development Corporation.
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OFFERED BY:


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