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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT A SCHEDULE OF REDUCED IRRIGATION WATER TOLL RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AND HAMAKUA DISTRICT THAT DIFFERENTIATES AMONG DIFFERENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM AREAS AND AGRICULTURAL USERS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF HAWAII-GROWN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THROUGH INCREASED USE OF IRRIGATION WATER.

1 WHEREAS, section 26-16(b) and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 authorizes the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to, among  
3 other things:

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- 5 (1) Identify problems related to agriculture and the  
6 appropriate state agencies and departments needed to  
7 solve the problems;
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- 9 (2) Promote the conservation, development, and utilization  
10 of agricultural resources in the State; and
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- 12 (3) Assist the farmers of the State and any others engaged  
13 in agriculture by research projects, dissemination of  
14 information, crop and livestock reporting service,  
15 market news service, and any other means of improving  
16 the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and  
17 increasing the productivity of the lands; and
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19 WHEREAS, chapter 167, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to  
20 irrigation water development, authorizes the Department of  
21 Agriculture to, among other things, charge and collect water  
22 tolls, fees, and other charges; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has recognized the importance  
25 of a self-sufficient and sustainable economy; and

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27 WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of all food consumed  
28 in Hawaii is imported into the State; and

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1           WHEREAS, although agricultural products are grown in  
2 Hawaii, the welfare of Hawaii's people will be enhanced by  
3 developing agricultural production and processing as fully as  
4 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural  
5 crops, the production of livestock and poultry, aquaculture and  
6 aquaponics, and the production and processing of other  
7 agricultural products; and

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9           WHEREAS, expanding Hawaii's agricultural sector, with the  
10 resulting local purchases of Hawaii-grown and processed  
11 agricultural products, would significantly benefit the State's  
12 economy, revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector, and  
13 contribute to job creation and career opportunities for  
14 farmers, producers of agricultural products, ranchers, and  
15 other engaged in ancillary agricultural businesses; and

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17           WHEREAS, Hawaii has substantial natural water resources on  
18 each of the islands that are not currently being effectively  
19 used and conserved for agricultural purposes but that can, on a  
20 sustainable basis, be used in greater quantities to expand and  
21 enhance Hawaii's agricultural sector and production; and

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23           WHEREAS, on the island of Hawaii, the high cost of water  
24 delivery is causing a hardship on farmers growing and desiring  
25 to grow agricultural crops and poultry, ranchers engaged in the  
26 production of livestock, and others desiring to develop  
27 aquaculture and aquaponics, thereby making it difficult to  
28 continue or undertake a sustainable agricultural business and  
29 adversely affecting the island of Hawaii's agricultural  
30 productivity; and

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32           WHEREAS, the irrigation systems that currently exist  
33 provide water in different areas on the island of Hawaii, and  
34 the costs of operating and maintaining these systems differ  
35 depending upon the location of these irrigation systems; and

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37           WHEREAS, the water toll rates and charges for the delivery  
38 of water to agricultural users in these irrigation systems have  
39 been at a uniform rate on a statewide basis, which imposes  
40 hardships on farmers, ranchers, and others on the island of  
41 Hawaii engaged in the growing of agricultural crops, including  
42 aquaculture and aquaponics, and the production of livestock and  
43 poultry located in these different irrigation systems located on  
44 different islands of Hawaii; and



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 2 WHEREAS, the existing water toll rates and charges do not  
 3 take into account the levels and amounts of water that are  
 4 appropriate for the various irrigation systems on the island of  
 5 Hawaii to promote increased agricultural, livestock, and poultry  
 6 production in these different areas, and do not take into  
 7 account the different classes of users who often use different  
 8 amounts of water for agricultural production; and

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 10 WHEREAS, a system of differentiated water toll rates would  
 11 provide opportunities to use for agricultural production the  
 12 currently unused water on the island of Hawaii that currently  
 13 flows to the sea; and

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 15 WHEREAS, as an initial step toward implementing a system of  
 16 differentiated water toll rates for different irrigation systems  
 17 and for different classes of users, there should be established  
 18 and implemented a differentiated water toll system for the  
 19 island of Hawaii's and Hamakua District's irrigation system to  
 20 provide opportunities to use, for agricultural production,  
 21 unused water that currently flows to the sea; now, therefore,

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 23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
 24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the  
 25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 26 Agriculture is requested to implement a schedule of reduced  
 27 irrigation water toll rates and charges for the island of Hawaii  
 28 and Hamakua District that differentiates among different  
 29 irrigation system areas and agricultural users for growing of  
 30 agricultural crops and the production of livestock and poultry  
 31 to promote the development and expansion of Hawaii-grown  
 32 agricultural commodities through increased use of irrigation  
 33 water; and

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 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 36 is requested to report to the Legislature on the implementation  
 37 of a system of reduced water toll rates for the island of  
 38 Hawaii and Hamakua District, as described above, no later than  
 39 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 40 2014; and

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 42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 44 Board of Agriculture; Director of Business, Economic



1 Development, and Tourism; Director of Health; Mayor of the  
2 County of Hawaii; Chairperson of the Water Board of the County  
3 of Hawaii; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of The Chamber  
4 of Commerce of Hawaii; President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
5 Federation; and Commander of the United States Pacific Command.  
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