

MAR 13 2013

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT A SCHEDULE OF REDUCED IRRIGATION WATER TOLL RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII 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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30           WHEREAS, although agricultural products are grown in  
31 Hawaii, the welfare of Hawaii's people will be enhanced by  
32 developing agricultural production and processing as fully as  
33 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural



1 crops, the production of livestock and poultry, aquaculture and  
2 aquaponics, and the production and processing of other  
3 agricultural products; and  
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5 WHEREAS, expanding Hawaii's agricultural sector, with the  
6 resulting local purchases of Hawaii-grown and processed  
7 agricultural products, would significantly benefit the State's  
8 economy, revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector, and  
9 contribute to job creation and career opportunities for  
10 farmers, producers of agricultural products, ranchers, and  
11 other engaged in ancillary agricultural businesses; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii has substantial natural water resources on  
14 each of the islands that are not currently being effectively  
15 used and conserved for agricultural purposes but that can, on a  
16 sustainable basis, be used in greater quantities to expand and  
17 enhance Hawaii's agricultural sector and production; and  
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19 WHEREAS, on the Island of Hawaii, the high cost of water  
20 delivery is causing a hardship on farmers growing and desiring  
21 to grow agricultural crops and poultry, ranchers engaged in the  
22 production of livestock, and others desiring to develop  
23 aquaculture and aquaponics, thereby making it difficult to  
24 continue or undertake a sustainable agricultural business and  
25 adversely affecting the Island of Hawaii's agricultural  
26 productivity; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the irrigation systems that currently exist  
29 provide water in different areas on the Island of Hawaii, and  
30 the costs of operating and maintaining these systems differ  
31 depending upon the location of these irrigation systems; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the water toll rates and charges for the delivery  
34 of water to agricultural users in these irrigation systems have  
35 been at a uniform rate on a statewide basis, which imposes  
36 hardships on farmers, ranchers, and others on the Island of  
37 Hawaii engaged in the growing of agricultural crops, including  
38 aquaculture and aquaponics, and the production of livestock and  
39 poultry located in these different irrigation systems located on  
40 different islands of Hawaii; and  
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42 WHEREAS, the existing water toll rates and charges do not  
43 take into account the levels and amounts of water that are  
44 appropriate for the various irrigation systems on the Island of



1 Hawaii to promote increased agricultural, livestock, and poultry  
 2 production in these different areas, and do not take into  
 3 account the different classes of users who often use different  
 4 amounts of water for agricultural production; and  
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6 WHEREAS, a system of differentiated water toll rates would  
 7 provide opportunities to use for agricultural production the  
 8 currently unused water within these districts on the Island of  
 9 Hawaii that currently flows to the sea; and  
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11 WHEREAS, as an initial step toward implementing a system of  
 12 differentiated water toll rates for different irrigations  
 13 systems and for different classes of users, there should be  
 14 established and implemented a differentiated water toll system  
 15 for the Island of Hawaii's district irrigation system; now,  
 16 therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
 19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,  
 20 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to implement a  
 21 schedule of reduced irrigation water toll rates and charges for  
 22 the Island of Hawaii that differentiates among different  
 23 irrigation system areas and agricultural users for growing of  
 24 agricultural crops and the production of livestock and poultry  
 25 to promote the development and expansion of Hawaii-grown  
 26 agricultural commodities through increased use of irrigation  
 27 water; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 30 is requested to report to the Legislature on the implementation  
 31 of a system of reduced water toll rates for the Island of  
 32 Hawaii, as described above, no later than twenty days prior to  
 33 the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 36 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
 37 Agriculture, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, and Chairperson of  
 38 the Water Board of the County of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY:

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