

MAR 13 2015

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PURCHASE THE KOHALA DITCH SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH KOHALA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the 22.5 mile Kohala Ditch, completed in 1906, is  
2 the lifeline for agriculture in North Kohala on the island of  
3 Hawaii; and

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5           WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch passes over public and private  
6 lands; and

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8           WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools owns the land at Honokane Nui  
9 that provides water to the Kohala Ditch system, which is owned  
10 and operated by the Morrison Grove Capital Investment Company;  
11 and

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13           WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch is one of the last, if not the  
14 last, ditch not controlled by the State of Hawaii; and

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16           WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch is a legacy project, essential to  
17 what Kohala has been, is today, and will be in the future; and

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19           WHEREAS, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake in Kiholo Bay on  
20 October 15, 2006, caused extensive damage to the Kohala Ditch  
21 system, with the most severely impacted sector being Flume No. 1  
22 between Honokane Nui and the Niulii Well; and

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24           WHEREAS, the damage to the Kohala Ditch caused the flow of  
25 water to stop, which adversely impacted farmers, ranchers,  
26 businesses, the community, and the entire State; and

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28           WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 for  
29 emergency repairs and the United States Congress also  
30 appropriated \$2,000,000 for general repairs of the Kohala Ditch  
31 irrigation system; and



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WHEREAS, the expenditure of state and federal appropriations were vital in restoring the Kohala Ditch, which became operational in late 2010 and has since served the public good, welfare, and economy; and

WHEREAS, since its restoration, the Kohala Ditch has been periodically inoperative as a result of flash flooding that has caused ditch infrastructure failures, which have imposed water shortages on farmers, ranchers, businesses, and residents; and

WHEREAS, thunderstorm conditions from December 21 to 22, 2014, generated heavy downpour that caused additional damage to the Kohala Ditch; and

WHEREAS, Flume No. 10 sustained severe damage, including the washing away of the concrete pier that holds up the center of the flume, and the west side pier sustained damage when the center pier fell over, which has resulted in the partial collapse of the flume; and

WHEREAS, other portions of the Kohala Ditch have sustained damage that impacts water usage and access; and

WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch is currently undergoing maintenance and recovery operations that may continue to cause interruption and hardship to farmers, ranchers, and residents through May 2015; and

WHEREAS, repairing the Kohala Ditch has been and continues to be a major undertaking, and ensuring its long-term viability is an equally daunting task; and

WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch is more than just a historical artifact; it is critical to the future of sustainable diversified agriculture in Kohala; and

WHEREAS, the Kohala Ditch system is a critical water source for local farmers and an important resource to the community of the island of Hawaii; and



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1           WHEREAS, investment in the management of the Kohala Ditch  
 2 could provide better water resource distribution for the  
 3 community of North Kohala; and

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 5           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii should assume a more active  
 6 role in the maintenance of the Kohala Ditch system to ensure  
 7 that Kohala Ditch users, including farmers, ranchers,  
 8 businesses, and residents, have a major stakeholder to work with  
 9 regarding the timely maintenance of and improvements to the  
 10 Kohala Ditch infrastructure; now, therefore,

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 12           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
 14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
 15 Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources are  
 16 requested to develop a plan to purchase the entire Kohala Ditch  
 17 system in the District of North Kohala on the island of Hawaii;  
 18 and

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 20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 21 and Department of Land and Natural Resources collaborate with  
 22 appropriate private landowners, Kohala Ditch users, and the  
 23 Kohala Ditch Foundation to determine the optimal management plan  
 24 that will ensure the long-term management, viability,  
 25 sustainability, and operation of the Kohala Ditch; and

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 27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 28 serve as the lead agency to determine the estimated cost of  
 29 purchasing the Kohala Ditch and report its findings and  
 30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 32 the Regular Session of 2016; and


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 34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 36 Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
 37 Natural Resources, and President of the Kohala Ditch Foundation  
 38 Board of Directors.

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 40  
 41 *J. De G. B.*  
*Ronald H. Bahr*

OFFERED BY: *Thomas J. Brown*  
*Thomas J. Brown*  
*R. J. O. J.*



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Handwritten signature  
Clarence D. ...  
~~DR. ...~~  
Jm

