
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a viable agriculture
2 industry requires a steady, reliable supply of water. However,
3 drought conditions continue to affect our farms and ranches,
4 hampering their ability to produce quality products on a
5 consistent basis throughout the year.

6 The legislature believes that to address the harmful impact
7 of droughts, mitigation measures laid out in the Hawaii drought
8 plan must be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan
9 is to develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms while at
10 the same time outlining steps toward mitigating the effects of
11 future drought occurrences. The Hawaii drought plan provides
12 clear policies and specifies response entities to implement
13 immediate, short-term, and long-term response measures to
14 mitigate the impact of droughts.

15 The legislature finds that in 2004, county drought
16 committees were formed for each of the four counties of Hawaii.
17 Each county drought committee developed a drought mitigation



1 strategy for its respective county, with a focus on drought
2 mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation strategies
3 represent the local needs and concerns of each county and are
4 incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan.

5 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's changing
6 climate requires updated mitigation strategies and planning to
7 protect water conservation efforts and implement the Hawaii
8 drought plan.

9 In 2007, the Honorable Clift Tsuji, then chair of the House
10 committee on agriculture, successfully sponsored drought
11 mitigation legislation that appropriated \$4,000,000 to implement
12 the Hawaii drought plan and address the many challenges faced by
13 Hawaii's agriculture industry in preparing for droughts.
14 Subsequently, in 2015, he introduced legislation requesting
15 additional funding to continue important drought mitigation
16 efforts and update the Hawaii drought plan, but that legislation
17 failed to pass. Accordingly, the need for additional funding,
18 as proposed by this Act, remains.

19 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to pursue
20 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the
21 State and support drought mitigation planning by updating the



1 Hawaii drought plan through the State's commission on water
2 resource management.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2018-2019 for drought mitigation projects and measures in each
8 county of the State.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$52,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2018-2019 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent
16 (1.00 FTE) permanent planner IV position within the commission
17 on water resource management to update the Hawaii drought plan
18 and carry out the purposes of this Act.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 630

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2017



H.B. NO. 630

Report Title:

Drought Mitigation; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for county drought mitigation projects and measures. Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent permanent planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to update the Hawaii drought plan.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

