SENATE CONCURRENT 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.

WHEREAS, Hawaii's agricultural production is insufficient to meet the State's food consumption needs, resulting in an over-reliance on imported food that creates critical health, safety, and security issues for Hawaii; the State's sustainable future; and preparedness in the event of future disaster, emergency, or crisis; and

WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under article XI, section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the Hawaii State Planning Act to create a new state policy to promote economically competitive activities that increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency, including the increased purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2016, the Governor pledged a commitment for Hawaii to double its food production by 2020, and
has prioritized making more land available for agriculture as a
way to accomplish that objective; and

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

WHEREAS, these lands provide a unique opportunity for the
State to fulfill the intent of the Hawaii State Constitution
regarding diversified agriculture and agricultural self-
sufficiency through acquisition of suitable agricultural land
for long-term leases for diversified, bona fide agricultural
operations to increase agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the State is working with the local agriculture
industry to provide farmers the infrastructure and resources,
such as land and water, to increase agricultural activity on
fallow lands; and

WHEREAS, Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, appropriated
$2,500,000 for the plan and design for a new wastewater
reclaimed water irrigation system at the Wahiawa Wastewater
Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, rules and recycled water guidelines adopted by the
Department of Health allow, as suitable uses of recycled water,
the irrigation of food crops where recycled water contacts the
edible portion of the crop, including all root crops; and

WHEREAS, the State has acquired over 1,900 acres of
agricultural land in the Central Oahu and North Shore area which
require irrigation for food production; and

WHEREAS, the State has a plan to use the 1,000,000 gallons
of R1 water from the Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment Plant for food
crops; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
and Natural Resources is requested to assist the Office of
Hawaiian Affairs in providing an easement to the Agribusiness
Development Corporation for water irrigation infrastructure on
property owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, TMK No. 71001045, 71001046, and 71001050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

OFFERED BY: 

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