
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ADOPT
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR ALLOWING
TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN FARMING SYSTEMS ON CONSERVATION LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, the State enacted Act 31, Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2015, which encouraged the growth and development of traditional
3 Hawaiian farming systems and traditional native Hawaiian crops,
4 as well as small-scale farm to meet the agricultural objectives
5 of the State; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians to the preservation
8 of resources and traditional and customary rights is firmly
9 established in articles XI and XII of the Hawaii State
10 Constitution, as well as other state laws and judicial
11 decisions; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's traditional farming systems, such as loko
14 i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated
15 patches) were considered innovative agricultural technologies
16 that once sustained a thriving and robust island community; and

17
18 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian farming systems play a
19 critical role in Hawaii and should be revitalized and encouraged
20 to promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food
21 security; and

22
23 WHEREAS, traditional farming techniques and native Hawaiian
24 culture plays a vital role in preserving and advancing the
25 quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and

26
27 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet
28 potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa (kava), hō'i'o (large
29 native fern), and 'olena (turmeric) that were cultivated using
30 these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be



1 important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural
2 practices today; and
3

4 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
5 critical towards helping the State achieve its ambitious goals
6 relating to food security and increasing domestic production of
7 a local food supply; and
8

9 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
10 traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact
11 throughout the islands; and
12

13 WHEREAS, each petitioner that seeks to use conservation
14 lands with the intention of agricultural or aquacultural farming
15 should either know, be a generational and traditional kupa'āina
16 (person of the place) of the parcel they are seeking, or consult
17 with the native people of that specific ahupua'a, as much as
18 possible, to ensure that their crop is compatible with the
19 ecosystem of that place; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation
22 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
23 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,
24 therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
29 and Natural Resources is urged to adopt administrative rules
30 under Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to streamline the
31 process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on
32 conservation lands; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney
36 General, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
37 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
38 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.

