

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State does not  
2 own or possess complete control of all water infrastructure that  
3 currently exists in Hawaii. Wells, canals, and irrigation  
4 projects are often located on private, county, and federal land,  
5 and limited access to these locations may impede the process of  
6 categorization. Since management of these resources is a  
7 responsibility of the associated agencies affiliated with local  
8 and state governments, there is a pressing need to ensure that  
9 an adequate inventory of these resources is maintained that may  
10 be dedicated to the agricultural industry. The legislature  
11 believes that these water projects are of critical importance to  
12 overall food production within the State and must be accurately  
13 categorized, properly maintained, and effectively managed.

14           The legislature also finds that the regulation and  
15 monitoring of wells, irrigation ditches, reservoirs, and pump  
16 stations related to farming and agriculture in the State are  
17 typically overseen by several agencies having overlapping



1 priorities and objectives. The department of land and natural  
 2 resources and the commission on water resource management both  
 3 fulfill significant roles in this complex process. However, it  
 4 must be noted that statistical data is also gathered by the  
 5 department of agriculture and the agribusiness development  
 6 corporation. These agencies provide several informational  
 7 inputs into a disjointed monitoring system that relies upon  
 8 cooperation between the differing but complementary agencies.  
 9 As a result, the State lacks a complete inventory and  
 10 comprehensive data system to track the condition and maintenance  
 11 needs of water infrastructure in Hawaii.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the  
 13 department of agriculture to conduct an agricultural water  
 14 infrastructure study for the State of Hawaii.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in  
 16 collaboration with the agribusiness development corporation and  
 17 the counties, shall conduct an agricultural water infrastructure  
 18 study for the State of Hawaii.

19 (b) As part of the study, the department of agriculture  
 20 shall develop an inventory of wells, irrigation ditches,  
 21 reservoirs, pumping stations, and agricultural infrastructure in



1 the State, including an assessment of the infrastructure's  
2 current condition and maintenance needs and recommendations for  
3 future investments in infrastructure.

4 The department of agriculture shall also develop a tracking  
5 system to report future infrastructure needs.

6 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to  
7 the legislature of its findings and recommendations, including  
8 any proposed legislation, by November 1, 2026.

9 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of  
10 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and  
11 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined  
12 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the  
13 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025  
14 to be exceeded by \$ , or per cent. The reasons  
15 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the  
16 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public  
17 interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for a  
21 statewide agricultural water infrastructure study.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; ADC; Counties; Agricultural Water Infrastructure; Study; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Directs the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the counties, to conduct an agricultural water infrastructure study for the State of Hawaii. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

