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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO STUDY THE RATE  
STRUCTURES OF PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT FURNISH WATER USED FOR  
AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

1           WHEREAS, a viable water source is the most important and  
2 critical component for the agricultural industry to irrigate and  
3 produce crops, and feed and maintain livestock; and  
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5           WHEREAS, although the Department of Agriculture maintains  
6 several irrigation systems statewide, agricultural producers may  
7 also rely on privately-owned water sources to maintain their  
8 livelihood; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the rate structures and fees for the use of water  
11 from privately-owned water sources for agricultural purposes in  
12 an area zoned for agricultural use may differ among each  
13 privately-owned water source, and the rates and fees charged may  
14 not correspond with the rates and fees charged for residential  
15 users; and  
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17           WHEREAS, establishing a uniform rate and fee structure that  
18 is comparable to the water rate structure used by the board of  
19 water supply of each respective county will allow farmers to  
20 continue to maintain agricultural production in Hawaii; now,  
21 therefore,  
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23           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Public Utilities  
26 Commission is requested to study the rate and fee structures of  
27 private entities statewide that furnish water used for  
28 agricultural purposes in areas zoned for agricultural use; and  
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30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
31 shall:  
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- 1           (1) Perform an inventory of all privately-owned water  
2            systems statewide that are used for agricultural  
3            purposes;
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- 5           (2) Examine the water rate structures established by the  
6            local county board of water supply;
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- 8           (3) Examine and distinguish between the rate and fee  
9            structures for privately-owned water systems used for  
10           agricultural purposes and for residential purposes;
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- 12           (4) Determine the factors that distinguish the water rate  
13            for agricultural purposes and for residential  
14            purposes; and
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- 16           (5) Seek input, collaboration, and guidance from the  
17            Department of Agriculture, the College of Tropical  
18            Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of  
19            Hawaii, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and each  
20            county board of water supply; and
- 21

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission  
23           is requested to report its findings and recommendations,  
24           including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
25           than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of  
26           2008; and

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29           Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the  
30           Public Utilities Commission; the Chairperson of the Board of  
31           Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and  
32           Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the President of the  
33           Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the Manager of the Honolulu Board  
34           of Water Supply; the Department Head of the Department of Water  
35           Supply, County of Hawaii; the Director of the Department of  
36           Water Supply, County of Maui; and the Manager of the Department  
37           of Water, County of Kauai.

