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 adversely affect local farms and
- 4 ranches, hampering their ability to produce quality products on
- 5 a consistent basis throughout the year. Further, recent long
- 6 term weather predictions indicate extended droughts interspersed
- 7 with storms of great intensity.
- The legislature believes that to address the harmful impact 8
- 9 of droughts, mitigation measures in the Hawaii drought plan must
- 10 be implemented. The goal of the Hawaii drought plan is to
- 11 develop coordinated emergency response mechanisms and to outline
- 12 steps toward mitigating the effects of future droughts.
- 13 Hawaii drought plan provides clear policies and directs
- 14 responsible agencies to implement immediate, short-term and
- 15 long-term response measures to mitigate the impact of droughts.
- 16 In addition to traditional reservoirs that capture surface water
- **17** for later use, other techniques such as rain harvesting have
- 18 proven beneficial in other areas of the world.



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- 1 The legislature also finds that in 2004, county drought 2 committees were formed for each of the four counties in Hawaii. Each of the county drought committees developed a drought 3 4 mitigation strategy for its respective county, emphasizing 5 drought mitigation projects. These county drought mitigation 6 strategies represent the local needs and concerns of each county 7 and are incorporated by reference into the Hawaii drought plan. 8 The legislature further finds that to implement the Hawaii 9 drought plan adequately, sufficient funding to the counties is 10 necessary to address the many challenges that the State's 11 agriculture industry faces in preparing for droughts. **12** The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to pursue 13 drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the 14 State. 15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for a 18 grant-in-aid to the counties for agricultural drought mitigation measures and projects, with emphasis on stormwater capture/reuse 19 20 projects, to be allocated as follows: 21 County of Hawaii \$
 - HB HMS 2012-1427

County of Kauai

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1	County	of Maui	\$	
2	City and county of Honolulu		\$	
3	Total \$			
4	The sums appropriated shall be expended by the appropriate			appropriate
5	county department of the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui,			
6	and the city and county of Honolulu, respectively.			
7	SECTION 3. Each of the county drought mitigation			
8	committees shall submit a report to the legislature, no later			
9	than twenty	days prior to the conver	ning of the 2014	regular
10	session, or	n the status of that coun	ty's drought mit:	igation
11	projects.	Each report shall include	e:	
12	(1)	The actions and steps take	en to pursue and	implement
13	r	new projects to mitigate	the effect of fut	ture droughts
14	ā	and their impact on improv	ving farm and ran	nch
15	7	viability;		
16	(2)	The status and progress of	f existing drough	nt mitigation
17	5	strategies, including exis	sting drought mit	igation
18	I	projects; and		
19	(3)	The actions taken to draw	upon available i	ederal funds
20	t	o support drought mitigat	tion projects and	d, where no
21	ã	ction has been taken to d	draw upon federal	funds, an
22	ϵ	explanation for the inacti	ion.	

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- 1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
- 2 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 2 5 2012

H.B. NO. 2832

Report Title:

Drought Mitigation; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the counties for drought mitigation purposes. Requires the counties to report to the Legislature on the status of drought mitigation projects. Effective July 1, 2012.

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