

MAR 10 2017

## 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.

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

7  
8 WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under article XI,  
9 section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution to conserve and  
10 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,  
11 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the  
12 availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under article XI,  
15 section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution to protect, control  
16 and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit  
17 of the people of Hawaii; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, over the past few years, the State has made it a  
20 priority to shift toward sustainability in agriculture and  
21 decreasing food imports; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the  
24 Hawaii State Planning Act to create a new state policy to  
25 promote economically competitive activities that increase  
26 Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency, including the increased  
27 purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by  
28 residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, on September 1, 2016, the Governor pledged a  
31 commitment for Hawaii to double its food production by 2020, and



1 has prioritized making more land available for agriculture as a  
2 way to accomplish that objective; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, large tracts of agricultural land, including those  
5 formerly used for pineapple and sugar cane, are now fallow; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, these lands provide a unique opportunity for the  
8 State to fulfill the intent of the Hawaii State Constitution  
9 regarding diversified agriculture and agricultural self-  
10 sufficiency through acquisition of suitable agricultural land  
11 for long-term leases for diversified, bona fide agricultural  
12 operations to increase agricultural production; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, the State is working with the local agriculture  
15 industry to provide farmers the infrastructure and resources,  
16 such as land and water, to increase agricultural activity on  
17 fallow lands; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, appropriated  
20 \$2,500,000 for the plan and design for a new wastewater  
21 reclaimed water irrigation system at the Wahiawa Wastewater  
22 Treatment Plant; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, rules and recycled water guidelines adopted by the  
25 Department of Health allow, as suitable uses of recycled water,  
26 the irrigation of food crops where recycled water contacts the  
27 edible portion of the crop, including all root crops; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the State has acquired over 1,900 acres of  
30 agricultural land in the Central Oahu and North Shore area which  
31 require irrigation for food production; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, the State has a plan to use the 1,000,000 gallons  
34 of R1 water from the Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment Plant for food  
35 crops; now, therefore,  
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
39 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
40 and Natural Resources is requested to assist the Office of  
41 Hawaiian Affairs in providing an easement to the Agribusiness  
42 Development Corporation for water irrigation infrastructure on



# S.C.R. NO. 174

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:

  
  


