

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE 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, in 2015, the State enacted Act 31, Session Laws of
2 Hawaii 2015, which encouraged, as agricultural objectives of the
3 State, the growth and development of traditional Hawaiian
4 farming systems and traditional Hawaiian crops, as well as the
5 growth and development of small-scale farms; and
6

7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's traditional farming systems, such as loko
8 i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated
9 patches), were important agricultural technologies that once
10 sustained a thriving and robust island community; and
11

12 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian farming systems still play a
13 critical role in Hawaii and should be encouraged to promote
14 greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security; and
15

16 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet
17 potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa, hō'i'o (large native
18 fern), and 'olena (turmeric) that were cultivated using these
19 traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be important
20 agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural practices
21 today; and
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23 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
24 critical towards helping the State achieve food security and
25 increasing domestic production of a local food supply; and
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27 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
28 traditional fishponds has had a significant beneficial impact
29 throughout the islands; and
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31 WHEREAS, traditional farming and the native Hawaiian
32 culture generally play a vital role in preserving and advancing
33 the quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and
34



S.R. NO. 131

1 WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians are codified in
 2 articles IX and XII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii,
 3 as well as other state laws and judicial decisions; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation
 6 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
 7 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians;
 8 now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 12 Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to adopt
 13 administrative rules to streamline the process for allowing
 14 traditional Hawaiian farming systems on conservation lands; and
 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
 18 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Attorney General,
 19 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
 20 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.
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 22
 23

OFFERED BY:




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