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

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7 WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians to the preservation
8 of resources and traditional and customary rights are firmly
9 established in articles XI and XII of the Hawaii State
10 Constitution, as well as other state laws and judicial
11 decisions; and

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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's traditional farming systems, such as loko
14 i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated
15 patches) were considered innovative agricultural technologies
16 that once sustained a thriving and robust island community; and

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18 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian farming systems play a
19 critical role in Hawaii and should be revitalized and encouraged
20 to promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food
21 security; and

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23 WHEREAS, traditional farming techniques and native Hawaiian
24 culture play a vital role in preserving and advancing the
25 quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and

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27 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet
28 potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa (kava), hō'i'o (large
29 native fern), and 'olena (turmeric) that were cultivated using



1 these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be
2 important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural
3 practices today; and
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5 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
6 critical towards helping the State achieve its ambitious goals
7 relating to food security and increasing domestic production of
8 a local food supply; and
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10 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
11 traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact
12 throughout the islands; and
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14 WHEREAS, petitioners who seek to use conservation lands
15 with the intention of agricultural or aquacultural farming
16 should either know, be a generational and traditional kupa'āina
17 (person of the place) of the parcel they are seeking, or consult
18 with the native people of that specific ahupua'a, as much as
19 possible, to ensure that their crop is compatible with the
20 ecosystem of that place; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation
23 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
24 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,
25 therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
30 and Natural Resources is urged to adopt administrative rules
31 under chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to streamline the
32 process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on
33 conservation lands; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney
37 General, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
38 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
39 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.

