

MAR 04 2021

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

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7 WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians are codified in
8 articles IX and XII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii,
9 as well as other state laws and judicial decisions; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawai'i's traditional farming systems, such as loko
12 i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated
13 patches) were important agricultural technologies that once
14 sustained a thriving and robust island community; and

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

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20 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet
21 potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa (kava), hō'i'o (large
22 native fern), and 'olena (turmeric) that were cultivated using
23 these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be
24 important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural
25 practices today; and

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27 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
28 critical towards helping the State achieve food security and
29 increasing domestic production of a local food supply; and

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31 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
32 traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact
33 throughout the islands; and



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1 WHEREAS, traditional farming and the native Hawaiian
2 culture generally play a vital role in preserving and advancing
3 the quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i has an affirmative obligation
6 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
7 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
12 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to
13 adopt administrative rules to streamline the process for
14 allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on conservation
15 lands; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
19 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Attorney General,
20 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
21 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.
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OFFERED BY: _____

