
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 the growth and development of traditional
3 Hawaiian farming systems and traditional native Hawaiian crops,
4 as well as small-scale farm to meet the agricultural objectives
5 of the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians to the preservation
8 of resources and traditional and customary rights is 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 plays 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
30 these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be
31 important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural
32 practices today; and
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1 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is
2 critical towards helping the State achieve its ambitious goals
3 relating to food security and increasing domestic production of
4 a local food supply; and

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6 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,
7 traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact
8 throughout the islands; and

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10 WHEREAS, each petitioner that seeks to use conservation
11 lands with the intention of agricultural or aquacultural farming
12 should either know, be a generational and traditional kupa'aina
13 (person of the place) of the parcel they are seeking, or consult
14 with the native people of that specific ahupua'a, as much as
15 possible, to ensure that their crop is compatible with the
16 ecosystem of that place; and

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18 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation
19 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact
20 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
25 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to
26 adopt administrative rules under Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised
27 Statutes, to streamline the process for allowing traditional
28 Hawaiian farming systems on conservation lands; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney General,
32 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
33 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
34 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.

