

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State does not
2 own or possess complete control of all water infrastructure that
3 currently exists in Hawaii. Often wells, canals, and irrigation
4 projects are located on private, county, and federal land, and
5 limited access to these locations may impede the process of
6 categorization. Since management of these resources is a
7 responsibility of the associated agencies affiliated with local
8 and state governments, there is a pressing need to ensure that
9 an adequate inventory of these resources is maintained that may
10 be dedicated to the agricultural industry. The legislature
11 believes that these water projects are of critical importance to
12 overall food production within the State and must be accurately
13 categorized, properly maintained, and effectively managed.

14 The legislature also finds that the regulation and
15 monitoring of wells, irrigation ditches, reservoirs, and pump
16 stations related to farming and agriculture in the State are
17 typically overseen by several agencies having overlapping



1 priorities and objectives. The department of land and natural
2 resources and the commission on water resource management both
3 fulfill significant roles in this complex process. However, it
4 must be noted that statistical data is also gathered by the
5 department of agriculture and the agribusiness development
6 corporation. These agencies provide several informational
7 inputs into a disjointed monitoring system that relies upon
8 cooperation between the differing but complementary agencies.
9 As a result, the State lacks a complete inventory and
10 comprehensive data system to track the condition and maintenance
11 needs of water infrastructure in Hawaii.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
13 department of agriculture to conduct a water infrastructure
14 study for the State of Hawaii.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in
16 collaboration with the agribusiness development corporation and
17 the counties, shall conduct a water infrastructure study for the
18 State of Hawaii.

19 (b) As part of the study, the department of agriculture
20 shall develop an inventory of wells, irrigation ditches,
21 reservoirs, and pumping stations in the State of Hawaii,



1 including an assessment of the infrastructure's current
2 condition and maintenance needs and recommendations for future
3 investments in infrastructure.

4 The department of agriculture shall also develop a tracking
5 system to report future infrastructure needs.

6 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 the regular session of 2025, the department of agriculture shall
8 submit a report to the legislature of its findings and
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation.

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
11 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
12 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
13 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
14 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
15 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
16 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
17 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
18 interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much



S.B. NO. 2814

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for a
2 statewide water infrastructure study.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2814

Report Title:

HDOA; ADC; Counties; Water Infrastructure; Study; Appropriation;
General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Directs the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the counties, to conduct a water infrastructure study for the State of Hawaii. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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