

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO EXEMPT ANY AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE PRACTICING DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE ON FORMER SUGARCANE LANDS WITHIN THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FROM ANY REQUIREMENT FOR A PERMIT OR SIGHT PLAN APPROVAL GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

1 WHEREAS, promoting the development of diversified
2 agriculture on certain former sugarcane lands would support the
3 State's food system resilience goals by increasing local food
4 production and reducing reliance on imports; and
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6 WHEREAS, currently, however, the permitting approval
7 process for farmers and ranchers to undertake this diversified
8 agricultural activity on land in the state conservation district
9 is time consuming and burdensome, effectively disincentivizing
10 these activities; and
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12 WHEREAS, depending on how many acres of land a farmer or
13 rancher plans to use for diversified agriculture, they would
14 have to obtain either a departmental or board permit from the
15 Department of Land and Natural Resources or the Board of Land
16 and Natural Resources; and
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18 WHEREAS, both permits require an extensive, detailed
19 application that can take up to one hundred eighty days to be
20 approved, delaying the beneficial reuse and maintenance of
21 former plantation lands across the State; and
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23 WHEREAS, expediting the productive reuse of former
24 sugarcane plantation lands for diversified agriculture would
25 support the State's food production goals and offer
26 opportunities for revegetation, ecological recovery, and
27 improved wildfire resilience; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
31 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Board of
32 Land and Natural Resources are requested to exempt any



