

ACT 186

H.B. NO. 1365

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Agriculture.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that access to affordable and reliable irrigation water is essential for sustainable agricultural viability. In the county of Hawaii, farmers incur great expense to pay for potable water from the county during the drier months of the year. By increasing the availability of non-potable water wells for agricultural uses, it would conserve the potable water supply for other purposes.

The purpose of this Act is to enhance irrigation water access by appropriating funds to the department of agriculture for a non-potable water wells pilot

program to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment for the drilling of non-potable water wells in Panaewa, Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Any non-potable water well or improvement on individual parcels at Panaewa agricultural park and Panaewa farm lots, under the department of agriculture, that is completed according to the environmental impact statement or environmental assessment under this Act shall revert back to the State upon the lease expiration date.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for a non-potable water wells pilot program to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment for the drilling of non-potable water wells on individual parcels at Panaewa agricultural park and Panaewa farm lots, under the department of agriculture.

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

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Approved June 6, 2025.)