



RONALD D. KOUCHI  
PRESIDENT

MICHELLE N. KIDANI  
VICE PRESIDENT

## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 18, 2021

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CHIEF CLERK  
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Ms. Puanaionaona Thoene  
Chairperson  
Environmental Council  
Hawai'i State Office of Environmental Quality Control  
235 S.Beretania St., Suite 702  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Thoene:

I transmit herewith a copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which was adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.

Sincerely,

CAROL TANIGUCHI  
Clerk of the Senate

Enclosure



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

6  
7           WHEREAS, the rights of native Hawaiians to the preservation  
8 of resources and traditional and customary rights are 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

12  
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

17  
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

22  
23           WHEREAS, traditional farming techniques and native Hawaiian  
24 culture play a vital role in preserving and advancing the  
25 quality of life and cultural vitality of Hawaii; and

26  
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



1 these traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be  
2 important agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural  
3 practices today; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, supporting traditional Hawaiian farming systems is  
6 critical towards helping the State achieve its ambitious goals  
7 relating to food security and increasing domestic production of  
8 a local food supply; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, streamlining the permitting process for loko i'a,  
11 traditional fishponds, has had a significant beneficial impact  
12 throughout the islands; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, petitioners who seek to use conservation lands  
15 with the intention of agricultural or aquacultural farming  
16 should either know, be a generational and traditional kupa'aina  
17 (person of the place) of the parcel they are seeking, or consult  
18 with the native people of that specific ahupua'a, as much as  
19 possible, to ensure that their crop is compatible with the  
20 ecosystem of that place; and  
21


22 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has an affirmative obligation  
23 to ensure that its regulatory actions do not adversely impact  
24 the constitutionally protected rights of native Hawaiians; now,  
25 therefore,  
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
30 and Natural Resources is urged to adopt administrative rules  
31 under chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to streamline the  
32 process for allowing traditional Hawaiian farming systems on  
33 conservation lands; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney  
37 General, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
38 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian  
39 Affairs, and Chairperson of the Environmental Council.

I hereby certify that this is a full, true, and  
correct copy of the original filed in this office.

Dated: APR 23 2021

  
Assistant Clerk of the Senate  
State of Hawai'i

