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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REVITALIZE LALAMILO  
STATION WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

1           WHEREAS, Waimea is often described as the breadbasket of  
2 Big Island agriculture. Nevertheless, agriculture is changing  
3 in Hawaii and this is especially evident in the Waimea-Kohala  
4 area. Real estate prices have skyrocketed and there has been an  
5 influx of affluent newcomers to the region. As the older  
6 "local" vegetable farmers retire in the next decade, much of the  
7 agricultural production is likely to shift away from large  
8 acreage commodity-production toward smaller estates producing  
9 high value, niche market crops, with a strong preference toward  
10 crops that promote healthy lifestyles and environmental  
11 stewardship; and

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13           WHEREAS, there is also increasing pressure for the existing  
14 and new farming operations to become more urban friendly,  
15 especially in reducing the use of pesticides and other  
16 chemicals, odor, noise, dust, and insect controls. These are  
17 challenges for the existing farms to evolve to in order to co-  
18 exist in the rapidly expanding communities. Indeed, the very  
19 survival of such operations may be threatened without continued  
20 support by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
21 Resources and the University's Cooperative Extension Services;  
22 and

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24           WHEREAS, this evolution of new agriculture is happening in  
25 many prime agriculture areas such as in Northern California and  
26 in the San Diego area, and the California system has been  
27 extremely progressive in the investigation of new crops and  
28 production systems. Similarly, the College of Tropical  
29 Agriculture and Human Resources has the opportunity to lead



1 these changes in the Waimea-Kohala regions using the Mealani and  
2 Lalamilo Research Stations, which represent the two very  
3 distinct and unique climatic conditions in the area; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Lalamilo Station can address regional  
6 challenges. Lalamilo Station can serve as a showcase for the  
7 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in  
8 demonstrating urban friendly, aesthetic, functional, and  
9 economic plant materials and methods that will benefit the new  
10 agriculture, community, and Big Island stakeholders. Exciting  
11 crops such as the sunny protea flowers, luscious antioxidant  
12 rich blueberries, extraordinary citrus fruits, crunchy dessert  
13 guava, and exotic and sweet wax apples are new, high value,  
14 attractive crops that will do very well at Lalamilo. Research  
15 on the use of non-traditional windbreaks and various ground  
16 covers at the station can demonstrate the use of aesthetic and  
17 functional plant materials for wind and soil protection, food  
18 products, and beautification; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that Lalamilo Station  
21 is:  
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- 23 (1) Strategically located in a thriving community with  
24 changing stakeholders;  
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- 26 (2) An integral part of the Mealani Station, which  
27 represents the two distinct climatic zones for the  
28 region; and  
29
- 30 (3) An irreplaceable asset to the College of Tropical  
31 Agriculture and Human Resources, given real estate  
32 prices, site location, and infrastructure costs; and  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the  
37 University of Hawaii to revitalize Lalamilo Station through  
38 collaboration with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
39 Resources faculty, staff, and administrators working closely  
40 with other government agencies and community stakeholders. The  
41 team is preparing a Master Plan proposal; and

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the  
3 University of Hawaii to support the same group that made Mealani  
4 station one of the most successful agricultural experiment  
5 stations in the State in making the Lalamilo Station another  
6 success story for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
7 Resources; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President, the Chair  
11 of the Board of Regents, and the Dean of the College of Tropical  
12 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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