
HOUSE 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
30 these changes in the Waimea-Kohala regions using the Mealani and
31 Lalamilo Research Stations, which represent the two very
32 distinct and unique climatic conditions in the area; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Lalamilo Station can address regional
3 challenges. Lalamilo Station can serve as a showcase for the
4 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in
5 demonstrating urban friendly, aesthetic, functional, and
6 economic plant materials and methods that will benefit the new
7 agriculture, community, and Big Island stakeholders. Exciting
8 crops such as the sunny protea flowers, luscious antioxidant
9 rich blueberries, extraordinary citrus fruits, crunchy dessert
10 guava, and exotic and sweet wax apples are new, high value,
11 attractive crops that will do very well at Lalamilo. Research
12 on the use of non-traditional windbreaks and various ground
13 covers at the station can demonstrate the use of aesthetic and
14 functional plant materials for wind and soil protection, food
15 products, and beautification; and

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17 WHEREAS, this body recognizes that Lalamilo Station is:

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19 (1) Strategically located in a thriving community with
20 changing stakeholders;
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22 (2) An integral part of the Mealani Station, which
23 represents the two distinct climatic zones for the
24 region; and
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26 (3) An irreplaceable asset to the College of Tropical
27 Agriculture and Human Resources, given real estate
28 prices, site location, and infrastructure costs; and
29

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2006, that this body urges the University of Hawaii to
33 revitalize Lalamilo Station through collaboration with the
34 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources faculty,
35 staff, and administrators working closely with other government
36 agencies and community stakeholders. The team is preparing a
37 Master Plan proposal; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the University
40 of Hawaii to support the same group that made Mealani station
41 one of the most successful agricultural experiment stations in



1 the State in making the Lalamilo Station another success story
2 for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the President, the Chair of the
6 Board of Regents, and the Dean of the College of Tropical
7 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Evans

MAR 15 2006

