
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO AMEND THEIR SUBDIVISION ORDINANCES TO FACILITATE THE SUBDIVISION OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii imports approximately 90 percent of its
2 food; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is critical that Hawaii raise its level of
5 self-sufficiency in food; and

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7 WHEREAS, plantation agriculture in crops such as sugarcane
8 and pineapple formerly served as one of the traditional pillars
9 of Hawaii's economy; and

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11 WHEREAS, diversified agriculture--with products ranging
12 from vegetables to fruits to coffee--has been widely-recognized
13 as a viable and increasingly significant component of the
14 state's economy today; and

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16 WHEREAS, farmers throughout the state often face difficulty
17 in obtaining land for their agricultural operations; and

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19 WHEREAS, farmers also encounter problems in financing their
20 agricultural operations because of the reluctance of lending
21 institutions to collateralize a loan against a lease on a parcel
22 of land that has not been legally subdivided; and

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24 WHEREAS, landowners should instead be encouraged to grant
25 long-term leases to farmers to use for agricultural production;
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28 WHEREAS, the counties have costly and time-consuming
29 subdivision processes, including infrastructure requirements,
30 that discourage landowners from legally subdividing a parcel of
31 land that can be leased for agricultural purposes; and
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WHEREAS, increased agricultural activity benefits not only farmers and businesses but also the people of the state as a whole; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, that each county is requested to amend its subdivision ordinance to permit waivers of compliance with the subdivision ordinance when long-term leases are entered into for agricultural production purposes in order to facilitate the use of land for agricultural purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are requested to expedite the amendment of their subdivision ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; and Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Maui, and County of Kauai.

OFFERED BY:

Polype P. Abinsoy, Jr.

Calvin K. Song
MAR 15 2006

