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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A TREE  
CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR TREE FARMS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, tree farming can provide many long-term, social,  
2 environmental, and economic benefits for the state; and  
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4 WHEREAS, forests can mitigate the effects of global  
5 warming; and  
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7 WHEREAS, tree farms can protect island watersheds, prevent  
8 soil erosion, and provide habitats for wildlife; and  
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10 WHEREAS, further development of the tree farm industry in  
11 Hawaii may reduce the unfavorable practice of cutting down and  
12 destroying native trees and forests because wood produced from  
13 tree farms may be purchased at retail markets; and  
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15 WHEREAS, tree farms are a growing industry in Hawaii,  
16 producing \$30,700,000 in revenues in 2001, and has experienced a  
17 6.2 percent increase since 1991; and  
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19 WHEREAS, expanding the tree farm industry has the potential  
20 of:  
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22 (1) Increasing lumber processing;  
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24 (2) Creating more furniture-making and other wood carpentry  
25 jobs; and  
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27 (3) Promoting an export product,  
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29 which all may contribute to diversifying and strengthening the  
30 State's economy; and



1 WHEREAS, a natural disaster may easily destroy decades of  
2 physical work, financial investment, and all its associated  
3 economic benefits; and  
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5 WHEREAS, tree crop insurance may provide economic stability  
6 to investors, managers, and employees in the tree farm business;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, although private insurance policies for tree crops  
10 are not available, private insurance policies are available for  
11 other types of agricultural products, including macadamia nuts,  
12 mango trees, tobacco plants, and avocado trees; and  
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14 WHEREAS, private insurance policies for tree crops may  
15 become an economically viable and feasible option if the  
16 financial risk could be spread out among the many farms in  
17 Hawaii and on the mainland; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
22 Agriculture (DOA) is requested to collaborate with the United  
23 States Department of Agriculture to develop a tree crop  
24 insurance program for Hawaii; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOA is requested to submit a  
27 written report of its findings and recommendations, including  
28 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20  
29 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of  
33 Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture;  
34 Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture  
35 Risk Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;  
36 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and the  
37 President of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association.

