
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEED BREEDING INDUSTRY
IN WEST MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, the area of west Maui from Lahaina to Olowalu was
2 once the home of a thriving sugar industry that kept thousands
3 of acres of land in the area for agriculture and provided
4 numerous jobs for the local community; and

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6 WHEREAS, article XI of the Constitution of the State of
7 Hawaii calls for the State to "promote diversified agriculture,
8 increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the
9 availability of agriculturally suitable lands"; and

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11 WHEREAS, the abandonment of agriculture in the area has
12 ultimately led to numerous wildfires that not only threaten
13 residents but also denude the hills thereby placing at risk the
14 loss of tons of valuable topsoil due to run-off; and

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16 WHEREAS, developers are buying many of these former
17 agricultural lands from Lahaina to Olowalu for conversion into
18 speculation properties and luxury housing, thereby creating
19 urban sprawl, overcrowding, and traffic gridlock as well as an
20 overall decline in the quality of life in the area; and

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22 WHEREAS, because of the conversion to hotel rooms and the
23 recent losses in the pineapple industry, valuable unionized jobs
24 in west Maui are being eliminated at an alarming rate; and

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26 WHEREAS, according to the National Agricultural Statistics
27 Service, the seed industry is one of the fastest-growing
28 agricultural industries in Hawaii with a commercial value of
29 \$70,400,000 and has surpassed the longtime staples of pineapple
30 and sugar in crop value; it has generated over \$144,000,000 of
31 economic revenue for the State annually; and while the seed
32 breeding industry has grown, the real estate speculator market
33 continues to decline; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Governor in her State-of-the-State address
3 called for a shifting of the State's economy away from land
4 speculation to other successful diversified businesses such as
5 agriculture and the seed breeding industry; and
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7 WHEREAS, a vast majority of the pollination work done in
8 the seed breeding industry is done by hand pollination similar
9 to methods pioneered over one hundred years ago and is a long-
10 standing practice in agriculture; and
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12 WHEREAS, the seed corn industry has proven to be a success
13 in west Kauai, which has similar climate, rainfall, and
14 temperature as west Maui and there are no organic farms in west
15 Maui using the seed corn, soybean, alfalfa, and wheat crops;
16 now, therefore,
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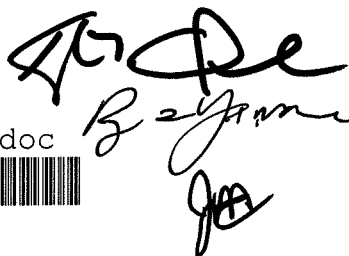
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2007, that representatives of the seed breeding
21 industry, the Maui Farm Bureau, and the landowners in west Maui
22 are requested to enter into immediate negotiations for the
23 establishment of a seed breeding industry in west Maui; and
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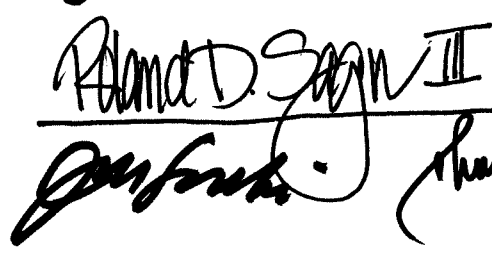
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor, the
26 Chairperson of the state Board of Agriculture, the Mayor of Maui
27 County, the Maui County Council, the Maui Farm Bureau, and the
28 ILWU Local 142 are requested to facilitate and support
29 negotiations for the establishment of a seed breeding industry
30 in west Maui; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
34 the Board of Agriculture, the Mayor of Maui County, the Maui
35 County Council, and the chief executive officers of Pioneer
36 Hi-Bred International, Monsanto, Syngenta, the Maui Farm Bureau,
37 the ILWU Local 142, Makila Land Corporation, and AMFAC/JMB.
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OFFERED BY: 




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MAR 14 2007