
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE INCENTIVE MEASURES APPROVED FOR IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, the passage of Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2005 (Act 183), established the process for identifying
3 important agricultural lands as mandated in article XI, section
4 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution; and

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6 WHEREAS, Act 183 recognized that it is critical not only to
7 establish policies for and to identify important agricultural
8 lands, but also to provide incentives for agricultural viability
9 in Hawaii, particularly for agricultural enterprises that farm
10 important agricultural lands, and for landowners of important
11 agricultural lands; and

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13 WHEREAS, these incentives should be designed to promote
14 agricultural viability resulting in the long term retention of
15 important agricultural lands; and

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17 WHEREAS, Act 183 directed the Department of Agriculture, in
18 consultation with the Department of Business, Economic
19 Development, and Tourism and the Department of Taxation, to
20 facilitate a meeting process with stakeholders in the
21 agricultural industry to develop and implement a comprehensive
22 and integrated framework of incentives and programs that will:

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24 (1) Promote agricultural viability;
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26 (2) Sustain the growth of the agricultural industry in
27 Hawaii; and
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29 (3) Develop the long term use and protection of important
30 agricultural lands for agricultural use in Hawaii
31 including tax policies, agricultural business



1 development, and financing, marketing, and
2 agricultural land use techniques; and
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4 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Department of Agriculture was
5 requested to submit a report to the Legislature of stakeholder
6 findings and recommendations before the 2007 Regular Session;
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9 WHEREAS, Act 183 also provided a process to map important
10 agricultural lands by the counties, which is then followed by
11 the designation of important agricultural lands, as mapped by
12 the counties, three years after the enactment of legislation
13 establishing incentives and protections for important
14 agricultural lands and agricultural viability; and
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16 WHEREAS, Act 183 further recognized that, in addition to
17 state incentives programs, it was equally important to include
18 county incentive programs to provide a comprehensive set of
19 incentives for agriculture to be viable on important
20 agricultural lands; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature has deliberated on several of the
23 incentive measures submitted by the Department of Agriculture,
24 the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Land Use Research
25 Foundation, and several other stakeholders in the agricultural
26 industry; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Legislature, in consultation with stakeholders
29 in the agricultural industry, will need to evaluate whether the
30 incentive measures approved for important agricultural lands are
31 adequate to begin the designation process; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
36 Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Business,
37 Economic Development, and Tourism and the Department of
38 Taxation, is requested to reconvene a working group of
39 stakeholders in the agricultural industry in Hawaii; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
42 is requested to reconvene a working group that consists of the
43 following members:
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- (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;
- (3) The Director of Taxation, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, or the Dean's designee;
- (5) The President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or the President's designee;
- (6) The Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, or the Executive Director's designee;
- (7) The Director of the Office of Economic Development from each county, or the Director's designee; and
- (8) Agricultural farmers and landowners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to:

- (1) Perform an economic analysis of the incentive measures passed by the Legislature since the enactment of Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005;
- (2) Recommend the minimum criteria for determining the "enactment of legislation establishing incentives and protection" pursuant to Act 183; and
- (3) Continue to discuss and develop additional incentive measures and programs, including incentives from non-governmental entities, for important agricultural lands to meet the minimum criteria for the enactment of legislation to establish incentives and protections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic



1 Development, and Tourism and Department of Taxation, is
2 requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the 2008 Regular Session; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
9 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the Director of
10 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; the Director of
11 Taxation; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
12 Human Resources, University of Hawaii; the Mayor, City and
13 County of Honolulu; the Mayor, County of Hawaii; the Mayor,
14 County of Maui; the Mayor, County of Kauai; the Director of the
15 Economic Development Office, City and County of Honolulu; the
16 Director of the Department of Research and Development, County
17 of Hawaii; the Director of the Office of Economic Development,
18 County of Maui; the Director of the Office of Economic
19 Development, County of Kauai; the President of the Hawaii Farm
20 Bureau Federation; and the Executive Director of the Land Use
21 Research Foundation of Hawaii.

