

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO LEGISLATE A  
REDUCTION IN FEDERALLY REGULATED FEES OR AN EXEMPTION FROM  
FEDERAL STATUTES FOR TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR LIVESTOCK  
FEED TO HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous  
2 challenges that creates obstacles towards obtaining a strong  
3 diversified livestock and agricultural products industry in the  
4 State; and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agriculture, in  
7 2006, locally produced eggs represented approximately thirty-  
8 three per cent of the total eggs sold in the State, and  
9 approximately thirty to thirty-five per cent of the milk  
10 consumed in the State was locally produced; and

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12 WHEREAS, within the past year, two egg farms and a dairy  
13 farm have closed in Hawaii, and a dairy farm and another egg  
14 farm are now threatened with closure; and

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16 WHEREAS, one of the challenges the livestock industry faces  
17 is the rising cost of feed for livestock; and

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19 WHEREAS, due to its location and relative isolation, Hawaii  
20 is dependent on overseas shipping for a majority of its food and  
21 food production, thus, livestock farmers rely on imported feed  
22 from the mainland; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, local poultry farmers have indicated that the  
25 total cost of grain or feed for their livestock amounts to  
26 seventy per cent of the cost to produce one dozen eggs, with  
27 fifty per cent of that cost attributed to the transportation  
28 expenses for the feed; and

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30 WHEREAS, furthermore, with increased United States  
31 Department of Agriculture regulations on agricultural products,



1 livestock farmers are forced to buy and use high-protein feed  
2 from the mainland to feed their livestock because grains, such  
3 as corn, are too expensive to grow locally in Hawaii in the  
4 massive quantities that are required by livestock farmers; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the high transportation costs for feed is a  
7 perennial problem for livestock farmers and the cost of  
8 importing feed grains from the mainland adds more than \$100 a  
9 ton to the expense; and  
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11 WHEREAS, a reduction in federally regulated fees or an  
12 exemption from federal statutes, such as the Jones Act, will  
13 financially assist livestock farmers with their feed requirement  
14 costs, enable them to remain in business, and allow them to  
15 continue to provide fresh meats, dairy, and egg products for  
16 local consumption; now, therefore,  
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the members of  
21 Hawaii's Congressional delegation to the United States Congress  
22 are requested to assist in the longevity of a diversified  
23 livestock industry in Hawaii by legislating a reduction in  
24 federally regulated shipping or transportation fees for  
25 livestock feed or an exemption from federal statutes relating to  
26 livestock feed shipping and transportation costs from the  
27 mainland to Hawaii; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's  
31 Congressional delegation to the United States Congress.  
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33  
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OFFERED BY:

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