

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
FORCE TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT  
THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN HAWAII.

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

4  
5 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agriculture, in  
6 2006, locally produced eggs represented approximately thirty-  
7 three per cent of the total eggs sold in the State, and  
8 approximately thirty to thirty-five per cent of the milk  
9 consumed in the State was locally produced; and

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

14  
15 WHEREAS, one of the challenges the livestock industry faces  
16 is the rising cost of livestock feed; and

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18 WHEREAS, due to its location and relative geographic  
19 isolation, Hawaii relies heavily on overseas shipping for a  
20 majority of its food and products for food production, thus,  
21 livestock farmers rely on imported feed from the mainland to  
22 satisfy their feed requirements; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, local poultry farmers, for example, have indicated  
25 that the total cost of grain or feed for their livestock amounts  
26 to 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

29  
30 WHEREAS, furthermore, with increased United States  
31 Department of Agriculture regulations on agricultural products,  
32 livestock farmers are forced to buy and use high-protein feed  
33 from the mainland to feed their livestock because grains, such  
34 as corn, are too expensive to grow locally in Hawaii to satisfy  
35 the quantities that are required by livestock farmers; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the high transportation costs for feed is a  
3 perennial problem for livestock farmers and the cost of  
4 importing feed grains from the mainland adds more than \$100 a  
5 ton to the expense; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture recognizes that the  
8 longevity of Hawaii's livestock industry is threatened due to  
9 the high costs of supporting this industry, and has introduced  
10 in the Legislature S.B. No. 1307 and H.B. No. 1221 during the  
11 2007 Regular Session that creates a livestock revitalization  
12 program; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, if enacted into law, the livestock revitalization  
15 program will allow the Department of Agriculture to provide  
16 grants to qualified producers to reimburse these producers for a  
17 percentage of their feed expenses; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, however, the livestock revitalization program is a  
20 short-term solution to a problem that is in desperate need of a  
21 permanent solution to effectively protect the livestock industry  
22 in Hawaii; now, therefore,

23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
26 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish a  
27 task force to discuss and develop long-term solutions to  
28 effectively protect the livestock industry in Hawaii; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force includes the  
31 following members:

- 32  
33 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or the  
34 Chairperson's designee;  
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36 (2) The Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and  
37 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii or the  
38 Dean's designee;  
39  
40 (3) The President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation or  
41 the President's designee; and  
42



- (4) Members representing the various sectors of Hawaii's livestock industry, including but not limited to dairy, beef, eggs, poultry, and pork; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:

- (1) Examine the current policies, procedures, and operations of livestock farms in Hawaii;
- (2) Explore and identify best practices to develop long-term solutions to effectively protect the livestock industry in Hawaii;
- (3) Explore any other options available to the task force to develop long-term solutions to assist Hawaii's livestock industry; and
- (4) Establish findings, and identify and recommend solutions to issues involving satisfying livestock feed requirements, including the transportation costs of feed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture submit a written report to the Legislature of the task force's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii; and the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

OFFERED BY:

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