

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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

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

18
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

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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,
32 livestock farmers are forced to buy and use high-protein feed
33 from the mainland to feed their livestock because grains, such



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

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
18 that the members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to the
19 United States Congress are requested to assist in the longevity
20 of a diversified livestock industry in Hawaii by legislating a
21 reduction in federally regulated shipping or transportation fees
22 for livestock feed or an exemption from federal statutes
23 relating to livestock feed shipping and transportation costs
24 from the mainland to Hawaii; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
28 Congressional delegation to the United States Congress.
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