

MAR 13 2007

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A TREE  
CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR TREE FARMS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, tree farming can provide many long-term  
2 environmental and economic benefits for the State; and

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4           WHEREAS, forests can mitigate the effects of global  
5 warming; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, tree farms can protect island watersheds, prevent  
8 soil erosion, and provide habitats for wildlife; and

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10          WHEREAS, further development of the tree farm industry in  
11 Hawaii can reduce the unfavorable practice of cutting down and  
12 destroying native trees from forests statewide for wood because  
13 wood produced from tree farms could instead be purchased at the  
14 retail markets; and

15  
16          WHEREAS, tree farms are a growing industry in Hawaii that  
17 produced \$30,700,000 in revenues in 2001, and has experienced a  
18 6.2 per cent increase since 1991; and

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20          WHEREAS, expanding the tree farm industry has the potential  
21 of increasing lumber processing, creating more furniture-making  
22 and other wood carpentry jobs, and promoting an export product,  
23 which all can contribute in diversifying and strengthening the  
24 State's economy; and

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26          WHEREAS, a natural disaster can easily destroy decades of  
27 physical work, financial investment, and all its associated  
28 economic benefits; and

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30          WHEREAS, tree crop insurance can provide economic stability  
31 to investors, managers, and employees in the tree farm business,



1 but private insurance policies for tree crops are not available;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, private insurance policies are available, however,  
5 for other types of agricultural products, including macadamia  
6 nuts, mango trees, tobacco plants, and avocado trees; and

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8 WHEREAS, private insurance policies for tree crops could  
9 become an economically viable option and feasible opportunity if  
10 the financial risk could be spread out among the many farms in  
11 Hawaii and on the mainland; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
16 Agriculture is requested to collaborate with the United States  
17 Department of Agriculture to develop a tree crop insurance  
18 program for Hawaii; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
21 is requested to submit a written report of its findings and  
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
23 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of  
24 the 2008 Regular Session; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
28 Board of Agriculture; the Secretary of Agriculture, United  
29 States Department of Agriculture; Administrator of the United  
30 States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency; the  
31 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and the  
32 President of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association.

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34  
35 OFFERED BY:

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