
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVISE A PLAN WITHIN ONE YEAR TO TIMELY EXPEDITE THE INTRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF HAWAIIAN CACAO TO THE MARKETPLACE.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai`i has a propitious opportunity
2 to develop a new industry in the growing, cultivating,
3 processing, and shipping of Hawaii-grown cacao to the mainland
4 United States and the rest of the world; and

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6 WHEREAS, *theobroma cacao*, otherwise known as chocolate and
7 translated into English as the "Food of the Gods," was
8 introduced to the Hawaiian Islands in 1830; and

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10 WHEREAS, cacao has been used for centuries as medicine; and

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12 WHEREAS, Asia, in particular, has a growing demand for
13 cacao for medicinal benefits; and

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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii is ideally located to capture and prosper
16 from the opportunities from a growing cacao market; and

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18 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers
19 organized a cacao chapter; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 2004, Dole Food Company rejuvenated its Oahu
22 cacao; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2008, that a Cacao Task Force be convened consisting
27 of, but not limited to, representatives from the following
28 stakeholders of the cacao industry: the Department of
29 Agriculture, [~~landowners,~~] current cacao growers, Castle &
30 Cooke, other farms, landowners, manufacturers, retailers,
31 confectioners, and any other relevant parties; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cacao Task Force shall
2 convene to develop a plan to identify strategies to accelerate
3 the growth of the cacao industry, increase the manufacture and
4 supply of locally grown cacao, promote its use and products, and
5 identify any potential obstacles to the industry; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cacao Task Force will have
8 one year to complete the plan and expedite the production and
9 delivery of Hawaiian cacao to the market; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
13 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Land and
14 Natural Resources, the Department of Business and Economic
15 Development and Tourism, the Department of Labor and Industrial
16 Relations, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of the City
17 and County of Honolulu, and the Honolulu City Council.

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