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# 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 Hawaii 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,  
7 when translated into English means the "food of the gods," and  
8 was first introduced to the Hawaiian islands in 1830; and  
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10           WHEREAS, cacao has been used for centuries as medicine, and  
11 Asia, in particular, has a growing demand for cacao and its  
12 medicinal benefits; and  
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14           WHEREAS, Hawaii is ideally located to capture and prosper  
15 from the opportunities offered by a growing cacao market; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in 2003, the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers  
18 organized a cacao chapter; and  
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20           WHEREAS, in 2004, Dole Food Company rejuvenated its Oahu  
21 cacao production; now, therefore,  
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23           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2008, that a Cacao Task Force be convened consisting  
26 of but not limited to representatives from the following  
27 stakeholders of the cacao industry: the Department of  
28 Agriculture, current cacao growers, Dole Food Company, other  
29 farms, manufacturers, retailers, confectioners, and any other  
30 relevant parties; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cacao Task Force develop a  
2 plan to identify strategies to:

- 3  
4 (1) Accelerate the growth of the cacao industry;  
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6 (2) Increase the manufacture and supply of locally grown  
7 cacao;  
8  
9 (3) Promote its use and products; and  
10  
11 (4) Identify any potential obstacles to the industry;

12  
13 and

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cacao Task Force will have  
16 one year to complete the plan and expedite the production and  
17 delivery of Hawaiian cacao to the market; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
21 Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural  
22 Resources, Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
23 Tourism, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Hawaii  
24 Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu,  
25 and the Honolulu City Council.

