HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AGRICULTURAL DIAGNOSTIC
    SERVICE CENTER, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND
    PRIVATE ENTITIES, TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF INFORMATION
    NEEDS OF HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, AND ASSESS WHETHER
    THE HAWAII AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION CENTER CAN MEET THE
    INFORMATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

1   WHEREAS, information regarding crop production in relation
2 to land use is not very accessible; and
3
4   WHEREAS, growers must quickly shift products to match
5 marketing opportunities, which requires knowledge of production
6 limitations due to elevation, temperature, pest incidence, and
7 soils; and
8
9   WHEREAS, more attention is needed to address the issue of
10 inadvertent contamination of coastal waters as a result of
11 agricultural operations and livestock operations and their
12 manure management, and to address continuing concerns about
13 nitrate contents in the Pearl Harbor aquifer and watershed; and
14
15   WHEREAS, nutrients are accumulating in and leading to the
16 degradation of Oahu's coastal and other waters, and improved
17 understanding and management of fertilizers and nitrogen-based
18 amendments such as manures, composts, and the organic
19 fertilizers required by organic farmers, are needed; and
20
21   WHEREAS, the extent of arsenic and other organic
22 contaminants is not well-known; and
23
24   WHEREAS, technicians from the Natural Resource Conservation
25 Service (NRCS) are lacking an online tool to make phosphorus and
26 nitrogen runoff risk evaluations; and
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1   WHEREAS, improvements in the Fertility Advice and
2 Consulting System (FACS) of the University of Hawaii
3 Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center (UH-ADSC), including
4 joint NRCS and UH-developed software, are needed to provide
5 clients with alternatives to resolve these issues; and
6
7   WHEREAS, the Hawaii Agriculture Information Center (HAIC),
8 a proposed computer system involving a comprehensive data
9 warehouse and decision-aid online applications, is intended to
10 provide site-specific real time information on personalized web
11 portals to aid decision making with respect to agricultural
12 activities for Hawaii food producers, home owners, agriculture
13 extension agents, researchers and scientists of UH, and
14 technicians of NRCS; and
15
16   WHEREAS, the primary databases in HAIC will include soil,
17 crop, weather, water body, fertilizer, animal feeding,
18 irrigation, and conservation practices, and the integrated
19 decision-aid applications of HAIC will include
20 nitrogen/phosphorous/potassium/calcium management, pesticide
21 control, nutrient runoff risk analysis, economic analysis, crop
22 scheduling, and farmers' daily plans; and
23
24   WHEREAS, the overall goals of HAIC will be to:
25
26   (1)   Encourage agricultural growth and expansion in Hawaii;
27
28   (2)   Help to ensure the economic viability of agricultural
29   operations in Hawaii; and
30
31   (3)   Improve environmental protections and mitigate
32   environmental damage that occurs as a result of
33   agricultural operations;
34
35 now, therefore,
36
37   BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
39 Session of 2008, that the UH-ADSC, in consultation with the UH
40 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR),
41 NRCS, and MobileSoft International LLP (MobileSoft), is

1 requested to survey the information needs of Hawaii's
2 agricultural industry and assess whether HAIC can meet the
3 information needs of Hawaii's agricultural industry; and
4
5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UH-ADSC, with input from NRSC,
6 UH-CTAHR, and MobileSoft, is requested to submit a written
7 report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations,
8 including any appropriate legislation, no later than 20 days
9 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session; and
10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of NRCS, President of
13 UH, Director of UH-ADSC, Dean of UH-CTAHR, Executive Director of
14 the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and the Chief Executive
15 Officer of MobileSoft.
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OFFERED BY: _____

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