

MAR 13 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND
SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE VIABILITY OF
HAWAII'S GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there is an exceptional dependence on
2 sea and air transportation as a means of distributing
3 agricultural products to destination markets; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is inadequate port, harbor, and airport
6 infrastructure for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to compete in
7 local, domestic, and international markets and to meet food
8 safety guidelines; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii suffers from unfavorable maritime freight
11 rates compared to more active trade lanes, especially for
12 westbound cargo in Pacific trade lanes, making it difficult to
13 supply Asian markets and to acquire imports from United States
14 mainland sources; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture
17 submitted a report to Congress in November 2003 entitled, *Report*
18 *on Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers*, ("Report")
19 which examined the transportation disadvantages experienced by
20 farmers and ranchers in noncontiguous states of the United
21 States ("noncontiguous states") and United States territories
22 ("territories") as they relate to the movement of farm products;
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Report recognized that agricultural shippers
26 in the noncontiguous states and territories do not have access
27 to adequate transportation infrastructure and equipment
28 necessary to be competitive; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Report also recognized that the strong
31 reliance on imports from the United States mainland drives up



1 input costs in the noncontiguous states and territories, and
2 leaves them vulnerable to transportation disruptions; and

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4 WHEREAS, as a result of the geographical disadvantage faced
5 by Hawaii's farmers and ranchers, Hawaii has only two dairies
6 and four egg farms left in the State and has lost numerous other
7 agricultural producers; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's congressional
12 delegation is requested to introduce and support federal
13 legislation that will:

- 14
15 (1) Improve the competitiveness of Hawaii's farmers and
16 ranchers with regard to transportation in the domestic
17 and international marketplace with the long-term goal
18 of seeking parity between Hawaii's farmers and
19 ranchers and their mainland counterparts;
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21 (2) Address transportation barriers, including inadequate
22 port, harbor, and airport infrastructure, that inhibit
23 the ability of neighbor island farmers and ranchers to
24 transport to Oahu markets, and on a statewide level of
25 farmers and ranchers to transport to foreign and
26 domestic markets; and
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28 (3) Address the costs to transport an agricultural
29 commodity, or inputs used to produce an agricultural
30 commodity in a geographically disadvantaged state such
31 as Hawaii; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of
34 Agriculture is requested to work with its federal counterparts
35 to effectuate the purposes of this Concurrent Resolution; and
36



S.C.R. NO. 234

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's
3 congressional delegation, the Secretary of the United States
4 Department of Agriculture, and the Chairperson of the State
5 Board of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY: _____




