

MAR 13 2008

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE COUNTIES TO AMEND THEIR LAND USE ORDINANCES TO PERMIT  
VOLUNTARY ROOFTOP LANDSCAPING AND AGRICULTURE IN URBAN  
DISTRICTS.

1 WHEREAS, in certain areas of the State the amount of usable  
2 agricultural zoned lands is vanishing due to increased urban  
3 sprawl; and  
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5 WHEREAS, examples of rooftop landscaping already exist in  
6 Honolulu, including the Hawaii State Capitol Building and the  
7 Kalanaimoku Building, where the roof over a large area of the  
8 parking garage is covered with open fields of grass, flowers,  
9 and shrubs; and  
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11 WHEREAS, scientific testing has shown that rooftop  
12 landscaping helps to reduce the amount of pollutants and dust  
13 particles in the air and water; and  
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15 WHEREAS, vegetation on city rooftops helps to reduce what  
16 is known as the heat island effect by blocking the sun's rays  
17 and conserving energy by keeping buildings cooler, thereby  
18 reducing the necessity or workload of cooling systems and  
19 providing sound insulation; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the economy of the State of Hawaii is largely  
22 dependent on the visitor industry, the main attraction being the  
23 natural beauty of our island state, which should be evident in  
24 urban areas as well as forests, parks, and conservation areas;  
25 and  
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27 WHEREAS, extensive positive examples of rooftop landscaping  
28 and agriculture can be found throughout Australia, Canada,  
29 China, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and Switzerland, and  
30 experimental projects are underway in Portland, Oregon; Chicago,  
31 Illinois; and New York City, New York; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan published in  
34 January 2008, at page 40, states as one of the recommended  
35 strategic actions regarding environment and natural resources



1 the need to "conserve agricultural, open space and conservation  
2 lands and resources," including encouraging "smart growth"  
3 concepts in land use and community planning; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
6 Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is conducting  
7 studies of rooftop landscaping and agriculture, especially  
8 involving native species; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the allowance and encouragement for rooftop  
11 agriculture - through various means including hydroponic farming  
12 -- can also provide sustainable agricultural production of fresh  
13 vegetables, fruit, herbs, among others; now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,  
17 that the counties are urged to amend their land use ordinances  
18 to permit voluntary rooftop landscaping and agriculture in urban  
19 districts; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors, Council Chairs, and  
23 planning agency directors of the County of Hawaii, the City and  
24 County of Honolulu, the County of Kauai, and the County of Maui.  
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OFFERED BY:

