
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES
FOR STATE-OWNED IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO MAXIMIZE
THE USE OF SUCH LANDS FOR CRITICALLY-NEEDED AGRICULTURAL
AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

1 WHEREAS, the development and growth of agriculture in
2 Hawaii has been inextricably woven with the fabric of the
3 State's history, culture, economy, and way of life; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the decline of large-scale plantation-based
6 agriculture and the rise of smaller-scale diversified
7 agriculture in Hawaii has led to serious and lengthy discussions
8 regarding the evolving role of agriculture in Hawaii, including
9 the use of agricultural lands, especially those that lie fallow;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a decline in
13 available pasture lands as well as local dairies, with only two
14 active dairies remaining in the state, both on the island of
15 Hawaii; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the State is in possession of certain expanses of
18 land that would be suitable for dairy pastures including, for
19 example, approximately 500 acres of former plantation land in
20 the Kunia area of Oahu; and
21

22 WHEREAS, recent discussions have also focused on the
23 critical need to enhance food security for our state; and
24

25 WHEREAS, we are utterly dependent on imported food to feed
26 our communities; and
27

28 WHEREAS, this reliance on imported food makes our state
29 particularly vulnerable to disruptions in shipping and air



1 freight, whether from terrorist activities, natural disasters,
2 or disruptions to the global food chain; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State Constitution contains a mandate for the
5 Legislature to provide standards and criteria to conserve and
6 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,
7 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the
8 availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and


9
10 WHEREAS, to carry out the intent of these constitutional
11 provisions, the Legislature has passed legislation in recent
12 years to establish a process for the identification and
13 designation of Important Agricultural Lands (IALs), as well as
14 incentives and protections for IALs; and

15
16 WHEREAS, IALs represent a potentially powerful vehicle for
17 preserving local agricultural production and jumpstarting the
18 drive to enhance Hawaii's self-sustainability and food security;
19 and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
22 Department of Agriculture (DOA) are required to work together to
23 identify IALs owned by the State and transfer management of
24 those lands to DOA by 2010; now, therefore,

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that DOA is requested to
29 identify priorities for state-owned IALs to maximize the use of
30 such lands for critically-needed agricultural and dairy
31 production; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
35 Board of Agriculture.

36
37
38 OFFERED BY: 

MAR 18 2009