
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP INCENTIVES AND PREFERENCES FOR SMALL FARMERS TO ALLOW THEM TO EXPAND AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, agricultural sustainability and food self-
2 sufficiency are an increasing concern for the people of Hawaii
3 due to our overwhelming dependence on imported food which is
4 exacerbated by the volatile international oil market and the
5 increasing costs of international transportation; and
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7 WHEREAS, food grown locally has been principally produced
8 by small farmers and not by large-scale, fossil fuel-dependent,
9 export-oriented agribusinesses; and
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11 WHEREAS, a "small farmer" is defined as a person who:

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- 13 (1) Is a natural individual or a cooperative or group of
14 not more than five natural individuals;
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- 16 (2) Owns or leases or has owned or leased land and has
17 engaged in agricultural activities on the land;
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- 19 (3) Has a proven farming ability;
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- 21 (4) Devotes at least seventy per cent of that person's
22 time to farming; and
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- 24 (5) Grows and sells at least eighty per cent of the crops
25 that person produces within the State; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has the authority to
28 plan, develop, and manage agricultural parks and non-
29 agricultural park lands transferred to the Department from the
30 Department of Land and Natural Resources; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



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1 of 2009, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to
 2 explore and develop incentives and preferences that may be
 3 granted to small farmers to allow them to expand and continue to
 4 contribute to the food self-sufficiency of the State; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 7 is requested to report its findings and recommendations,
 8 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later
 9 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 10 of 2010; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 14 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

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OWS
Cindy Evans

MAR 17 2009

