
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING SMALL FARMERS WHO GROW FOOD CROPS LOCALLY AND WHOSE GROSS ANNUAL INCOME IS NO LESS THAN \$1,000 AND NO MORE THAN \$500,000 ANNUALLY.

1 WHEREAS, Part III of Chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes
2 (HRS), regarding Important Agricultural Lands promotes retention
3 of prime lands for agricultural purposes and agricultural self-
4 sufficiency; and

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6 WHEREAS, agricultural sustainability and food self-
7 sufficiency are an increasingly important concern for the people
8 of Hawaii due to our dependency on food imports and the rising
9 cost of local food production; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's food self-sufficiency has been
12 demonstrated in the past by small farmers and not by large-
13 scale, fossil-fuel dependent, export-oriented agribusiness; and

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15 WHEREAS, setting achievable criteria for agriculture lease
16 and credits supports small farmers, and their ability to achieve
17 local food security; and

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19 WHEREAS, a possible standard for tax breaks and other
20 assistance could be based on the Department of Agriculture's
21 (DOA) policy of asking farmers who make \$1,000 or more to report
22 their production and income; and

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24 WHEREAS, providing unfair advantages for agricultural
25 corporations already well-supported by federal crop subsidies,
26 who do not originate from the State of Hawai'i, or whose annual
27 income exceeds \$500,000 through the reduction or elimination of
28 general excise taxes only hurts small farmers; and

29 WHEREAS, food and food products sold locally mean more
30 dollars circulate and remain in the state longer, promoting
31 greater economic health; and

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1 WHEREAS, U.S. dollars earmarked for agricultural subsidies
2 should go to sustainable family farms and not to agribusinesses;
3 now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2009, that this body hereby urges DOA, the Department of
8 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DEBDT), and the
9 Department of Taxation (DOTAX), to make support to small farmers
10 who grow food crops locally and whose gross annual income is no
11 less than \$1,000 and no more than \$500,000 annually, a priority;
12 and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOA, the Department of Land and
15 Natural Resources, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation
16 are requested to prioritize the leasing of agricultural lands
17 under their jurisdiction using the following criteria:
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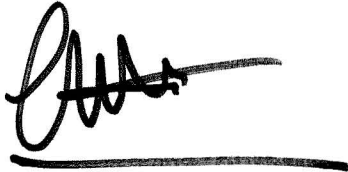
- 19 (1) Leases for production where no less than 100 percent
20 is sold and consumed locally for 100 percent of
21 agricultural lands under DOA jurisdiction;
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- 23 (2) Lease requests for small farms of one to 40 acres;
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- 25 (3) Production of food fit for human consumption before
26 leases for other agricultural crops;
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- 28 (4) Use of organic production methods before fossil-fuel
29 and chemical dependent technologies;
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- 31 (5) Financial aid for infrastructure and funding for
32 enforcement; and
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- 34 (6) Incorporating the co-existent farmers' document as a
35 reference;
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37 and
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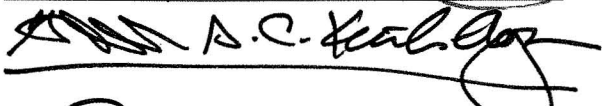




39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOTAX, in conjunction with DOA
40 is requested to investigate the effects of a waiver of general
41 excise tax on rents from private lands with affordable long-term
42 leases to small farmers using the above criteria; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
4 Resources, Director of Business, Economic Development, and
5 Tourism, Director of Taxation, and Chairperson of the
6 Agribusiness Development Corporation's Board of Directors.
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OFFERED BY:

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