
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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22 WHEREAS, recent discussions have also focused on the
23 critical need to enhance food security for our state; and
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25 WHEREAS, we are utterly dependent on imported food to feed
26 our communities; and
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28 WHEREAS, this reliance on imported food makes our state
29 particularly vulnerable to disruptions in shipping and air
30 freight, whether from terrorist activities, natural disasters,
31 or disruptions to the global food chain; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State Constitution contains a mandate for the
2 Legislature to provide standards and criteria to conserve and
3 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,
4 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the
5 availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and
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7 WHEREAS, to carry out the intent of these constitutional
8 provisions, the Legislature has passed legislation in recent
9 years to establish a process for the identification and
10 designation of Important Agricultural Lands (IALs), as well as
11 incentives and protections for IALs; and
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13 WHEREAS, IALs represent a potentially powerful vehicle for
14 preserving local agricultural production and jumpstarting the
15 drive to enhance Hawaii's self-sustainability and food security;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
19 Department of Agriculture (DOA) are required to work together to
20 identify IALs owned by the State and transfer management of
21 those lands to DOA by 2010; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2009, that DOA is requested to identify priorities for state-
26 owned IALs to maximize the use of such lands for critically-
27 needed agricultural and dairy production; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 18 2009

