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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO IDENTIFY STATE-OWNED AGRICULTURAL LANDS SUITABLE FOR DAIRIES TO MAXIMIZE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE LAND CAN BE USED AS PASTURES BY DAIRIES FOR MILK 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;  
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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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WHEREAS, the State Constitution contains a mandate for the Legislature to provide standards and criteria to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that DOA is requested, in consultation with Department of Health and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to identify state-owned agricultural lands suitable for dairies to maximize the likelihood that the land can be used as pastures by dairies for milk production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOA submit a report to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2010 regular session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Director of Health.

