
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO GIVE PRIORITY TO STATE LEASES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RANCHING OPERATIONS OVER STATE LEASES FOR ENERGY FACILITY OPERATION PROJECTS WITH RESPECT TO LEASE EXTENSIONS AND RENEWALS.

1 WHEREAS, Act 31, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, allows
2 construction of solar energy facilities and related activities
3 within agricultural districts that have soil classified by the
4 land study bureau as overall (master) productivity rating class
5 D or E; and
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7 WHEREAS, solar energy facilities have the potential to
8 disrupt agricultural and ranching operations, in some cases
9 ruining the soil for future agricultural use; and
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11 WHEREAS, if large industrial scale solar arrays are built,
12 as they are likely to be in undeveloped areas, a potential
13 impact is the loss of large amounts of useable agricultural
14 land; and
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16 WHEREAS, the use of agricultural land for solar energy
17 production would conceivably have no limitation in size and
18 would not be required to be incidental or subordinate to an
19 agricultural activity; and
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21 WHEREAS, solar energy, which remains a promising alterative
22 source of electricity, is only one of the solutions to the
23 energy crisis, while the State's agricultural and ranching
24 operations provide the only source of non-imported food in the
25 State; and
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27 WHEREAS, by allowing solar energy facilities to potentially
28 overrun useable agricultural land, this practice will only
29 further diminish the agricultural industry that the State is
30 desperately trying to protect; 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 Land and Natural Resources is
2 requested to give priority to state leases for agricultural and
3 ranching operations over state leases for energy facility
4 operations with respect to lease extensions and renewals; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
8 Land and Natural Resources, and the Chairperson of the Board of
9 Agriculture.
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MAR 18 2009

