
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO REVISE THEIR REAL PROPERTY TAX
ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF REAL PROPERTY
TAXES ON TARO FARMERS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Kalo, the Hawaiian word for taro, is a culturally
2 significant plant to the kanaka maoli or Hawaii's indigenous
3 people; and

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5 WHEREAS, Kalo intrinsically embodies the interdependency of
6 the past, present, future, and the essence of procreation and
7 regeneration; and

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9 WHEREAS, Kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-
10 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also
11 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values
12 important to the State; and

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14 WHEREAS, Kalo is an important food crop in Hawaii and most
15 locally-grown taro is consumed within the State, indicating a
16 highly specialized market; and

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18 WHEREAS, historically, there were thousands of acres under
19 taro cultivation in Hawaii, but today, there remain less than
20 five hundred acres of taro in production; and

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22 WHEREAS, as an indigenous crop to Hawaii, taro is a ready
23 source of locally grown food that provides food security for the
24 State by easing Hawaii's dependence on imported food; and

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26 WHEREAS, taro cultivation also presents opportunities for
27 job creation and community economic development; and

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29 WHEREAS, taro's unique place in Hawaii's history and
30 culture make it an educational tool for Hawaii's youth,



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1 providing a way to learn about Hawaiian culture as well as to
2 develop valuable agricultural and job skills; and
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4 WHEREAS, taro farmers are faced with rising property tax
5 rates as adjacent property owners develop their property with
6 expensive residential homes and other commercial development
7 projects; and
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9 WHEREAS, the rising property tax rates threaten their very
10 livelihood and the future of taro farming in the State; now,
11 therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the counties are requested
16 to revise their real property tax assessment systems to minimize
17 the impact of real property taxes on taro farmers in the State;
18 and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are requested to
21 consider allowing taro farmers to dedicate their land for
22 agricultural purposes as other farmers have done in the past;
23 and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and the
27 Chairperson of the Council of each county.
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OFFERED BY: Mele Carroll
Karen Luana
Mark Hukunana
Cen
Stephanie

