
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ASCERTAIN THE SAFETY OF
REPASTEURIZED UNREFRIGERATED MILK SHIPPED TO HAWAII FROM
THE MAINLAND.

1 WHEREAS, while there were once over 40 dairy farms in
2 Hawaii, most of them have shut down over the past 25 years, with
3 only Clover Leaf Dairy and Island Dairy on the Big Island still
4 in production, and with Meadow Gold as the only remaining major
5 milk processor; and

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7 WHEREAS, there are many challenges to running a dairy farm
8 in Hawaii: the negative effect of tropical heat on milk
9 production, herd health problems, and conception concerns; the
10 difficulty of obtaining affordable feed due to the high cost of
11 land to produce feed crops, and high costs of transporting
12 imported feed from the mainland; and high cost of animal waste
13 removal; and

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15 WHEREAS, there is a daily milk shortage of more than 40,000
16 gallons on Oahu, resulting in 70 to 80 percent of the milk sold
17 in Hawaii to be shipped in from the mainland - primarily from
18 California; and

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20 WHEREAS, as the milk makes its way over to Hawaii, taking
21 over a week to ship, and close to a month from milking to
22 placement on the shelves according to the State Department of
23 Agriculture (DOA), it is stored in huge tanks that are
24 unrefrigerated as long as the temperature at the plant is below
25 45 degrees, then is repasteurized upon arrival in Hawaii, before
26 it is bottled and placed on the store shelves; and

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28 WHEREAS, a DOA study found that milk sold on Oahu exceeded
29 federal regulatory limits for bacterial counts five days prior
30 to expiration; and

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32 WHEREAS, consumers frequently find that imported milk
33 spoils before the stamped expiration date; and



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1 WHEREAS, the Milk Control Act, when enacted in 1967, when
 2 the dairy industry in Hawaii was flourishing, was established to
 3 protect the local dairy industry from the fluctuations of the
 4 market and ensure the availability of milk, and not intended to
 5 ensure the safety of shipped milk; and

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 7 WHEREAS, the Milk Control Act does not contain any
 8 standards for the safety of milk shipped from the mainland; now,
 9 therefore,

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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2010, that the United States Department of Health and Human
 14 Services and State Department of Health, with the cooperation of
 15 the Department of Agriculture, determine whether milk shipped to
 16 Hawaii from the mainland in unrefrigerated bulk containers
 17 taking more than ten days, and repasteurized upon its arrival,
 18 prior to bottling, is safe for human consumption; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States
 22 Department of Health and Human Services, Director of the State
 23 Department of Health, and the Chairperson of the Board of
 24 Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY: Tom Brown

[Signature]

John M. [Signature]

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