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## 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 Island of Hawaii  
4 still in production, and with Meadow Gold as the only remaining  
5 major 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 prior to  
22 placement on the market shelves, according to the 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 the milk is repasteurized when it arrives in  
26 Hawaii, before it is bottled and placed on the store shelves;  
27 and  
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29           WHEREAS, an University of Hawaii study found that milk sold  
30 on Oahu exceeded federal regulatory limits for bacterial counts  
31 five days prior to expiration; and  
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1 WHEREAS, consumers frequently find that imported milk  
2 spoils before the stamped expiration date; and  
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4 WHEREAS, when the dairy industry in Hawaii was flourishing,  
5 the Milk Control Act of 1967, was established to protect the  
6 local dairy industry from the fluctuations of the market and  
7 ensure the availability of milk, and was not intended to ensure  
8 milk shipped over long distances was safe to consume; 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 in cooperation with DOA,  
15 are urged to determine whether milk shipped to Hawaii from the  
16 mainland in unrefrigerated bulk containers taking more than ten  
17 days, and repasteurized upon its arrival, prior to bottling:  
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19 (1) Poses any safety risks;

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21 (2) Is safe for human consumption; and  
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23 (3) Should be further reviewed to establish whether the  
24 labeling or shipping process should be changed;  
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26 and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States  
30 Department of Health and Human Services, Director of Health, and  
31 the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

