

JAN 28 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TO CREATE AN INSTITUTE TO TEACH EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL FARMING PRACTICES THROUGH HAWAII'S UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii and the Legislature are
2 committed to taking bold action to address Hawaii's food
3 requirements by investment in capital and human resources by
4 government, the private sector, and the people of Hawaii to
5 shift our present course of importing food toward a more
6 agriculturally sustainable society; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state that is dangerously
9 dependent on imports for basic food, and producing local food
10 would reduce Hawaii's demand for fossil fuels, keep money in our
11 community, and decrease the State's vulnerability to food-supply
12 disruptions caused by natural disasters or worldwide economic
13 events; and
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15 WHEREAS, many acres of Hawaii's highly productive
16 agricultural lands are not being farmed and Hawaii's
17 agricultural sector is in dire need of revitalization to ensure
18 that it is healthy and prosperous, in turn ensuring the food
19 security and health of our economy and the people of Hawaii; and
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21 WHEREAS, sustainable agricultural practices encourage
22 farmers to eliminate harmful waste products that negatively
23 impact the quality of produce, livestock, and human health, rely
24 less on imported pesticides and fertilizers that have long-term
25 detrimental impacts on the quality of our soil, and rely more on
26 locally grown microorganisms to maintain the quality of our
27 soil; and
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29 WHEREAS, one example of a sustainable agricultural practice
30 is the ISO 9001/14001 Natural Farming certified Cho Global
31 Natural Farming system, which has proven successful in tropical



1 climates and in over twenty countries worldwide, and has
2 improved crop and livestock yields and quality while decreasing
3 production costs; and
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5 WHEREAS, Cho Global Natural Farming has the potential to
6 revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector by improving crop and
7 livestock yields and quality while decreasing production costs,
8 and therefore is qualified to become a foundational agricultural
9 methodology in Hawaii that will improve Hawaii's food security
10 and agricultural sector in the interests of the people of
11 Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, an institution that teaches sustainable
14 agricultural practices and incorporates proven sustainable
15 agricultural methodologies is necessary to transmit sustainable
16 agricultural practices to the people of Hawaii, including the
17 youth of Hawaii, in collaboration with the University of Hawaii
18 system, to ensure that farming knowledge is maintained in our
19 communities for future generations; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the
24 Board of Agriculture is requested to establish a task force on
25 sustainable agricultural practices that shall investigate the
26 creation of an agricultural institution that will be a knowledge
27 resource for information about natural farming practices, and
28 will partner with the colleges in the University of Hawaii
29 system to transmit to farmers sustainable agricultural
30 practices:
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
33 following members:
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- 35 (1) Two members representing the Chairperson of the Board
36 of Agriculture;
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38 (2) One member representing the Director of Business,
39 Economic Development, and Tourism;
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41 (3) One member representing the Chairperson of the Board
42 of Education;
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S.C.R. NO. 16

- 1 (4) Two members representing the Chairperson of the Board
- 2 of Regents of the University of Hawaii; and
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- 4 (5) One member appointed by the governor representing Ka
- 5 Hana No'eau; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested,
8 among other things, to:

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- 10 (1) Perform an analysis of the costs and expenses of
- 11 creating and maintaining an institute that teaches
- 12 sustainable natural farming practices; and
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- 14 (2) Create model curricula and clinics to teach
- 15 sustainable farming practices; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force
18 shall select a chairperson from among themselves, and the
19 chairperson is requested to convene task force meetings; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
22 submit to the Legislature a report no later than twenty days
23 prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session regarding its
24 findings and recommendations, together with recommended proposed
25 legislation, if any; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;
29 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Business,
30 Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the Board of
31 Education; and Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the
32 University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: 