

MAR 11 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY OF WHETHER AN AGRIBUSINESS COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM TO SERVE SMALL FAMILY FARMS AND LIVESTOCK FARMS
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, local farmers have difficulty distributing their
2 products to large retail establishments such as warehouse clubs,
3 big box retail facilities, and other large supermarkets that
4 sell produce, poultry, or other meats; and

5
6 WHEREAS, small family produce farms and livestock farms
7 currently have difficulty marketing their products to large
8 institutions such as the Department of Education and the
9 Department of Health; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the focus of the world food economy needs to shift
12 from its current focus on global food supply to local diversity
13 in food security systems and local production of staple food
14 whenever possible; and

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16 WHEREAS, local produce is usually fresher and more
17 accommodating of local diet and culture; and

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19 WHEREAS, specialty foods should only be imported when local
20 resources cannot fulfill the demand; and

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22 WHEREAS, most early American cooperatives were founded to
23 help farmers market their products and improve their purchasing
24 power; and

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26 WHEREAS, currently there are several county-focused
27 cooperatives; however, a state-wide cooperative is needed so
28 that small famers can service large retail establishments and
29 state agencies and departments; and

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31 WHEREAS, an agribusiness cooperative program may also
32 promote the development of feed mills located in the State to



1 lower farm expenses and minimize the carbon impact of
2 transporting imported feed to local farmers; and
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4 WHEREAS, fresh local feed will result in more nutritional
5 byproducts from livestock and will prevent the introduction of
6 invasive species that may negatively impact our State's delicate
7 ecosystem and food chain; and
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9 WHEREAS, a local feed mill may be used as an economic asset
10 to support and sustain a statewide agribusiness cooperative; and
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12 WHEREAS, permanent funding for the agribusiness cooperative
13 program may be obtained through private and public funding; and
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15 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
16 Agriculture and Human Resources operates an agricultural
17 extension service program that assists local farmers in the best
18 farming practices; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
23 Hawaii is requested to convene a task force to conduct a study
24 on whether an agribusiness cooperative program should be
25 established and whether the development of feed mills in the
26 State will lower local farm expenses and minimize the carbon
27 impact of transporting imported feed local farmers; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force examine the
30 feasibility, usefulness, and costs of establishing an
31 agribusiness cooperative program; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a proposal on
34 the means by which the agribusiness cooperative program may be
35 permanently funded through private and public funds or the
36 establishment of a local feed mill; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify the
39 appropriate state agency or department under which an
40 agribusiness cooperative program should be established; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include the
43 following members:
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- 1 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
- 2 Chairperson's designee;
- 3
- 4 (2) A representative of the University of Hawaii College
- 5 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' (CTAHR)
- 6 extension program, as designated by the Dean of CTAHR;
- 7
- 8 (3) A faculty member from the Department of Human
- 9 Nutrition, Food, and Animal Sciences of CTAHR, as
- 10 designated by the Dean of CTAHR;
- 11
- 12 (4) A Professor of Agricultural Economics from the
- 13 University of Hawaii at Hilo, as designated by the
- 14 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo;
- 15
- 16 (5) The President of the Hawaii Food Industry Association;
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- 18 (6) The President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or
- 19 the President's designee;
- 20
- 21 (7) The President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.,
- 22 or the President's designee; and
- 23
- 24 (8) A representative of the Hawaii Egg Producers
- 25 Cooperative; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
 28 recommendations and findings, including any proposed
 29 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 30 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 34 Board of Agriculture; the Dean of the University of Hawaii
 35 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; the
 36 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo; the President of
 37 the Hawaii Food Industry Association; the President of the
 38 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; the President of the Hawaii
 39 Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; and a representative of the Hawaii
 40 Egg Producers Cooperative.

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OFFERED BY:

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