

MAR 16 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF AN ADVISORY GROUP TO DEVELOP INITIATIVES TO MAKE THE USE OF IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PURPOSES A PRIORITY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has limited lands suitable for agricultural
2 use; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the 1978 Constitutional Convention mandated
5 protection of important agricultural lands; and

6
7 WHEREAS, section 3, Article XI, of the Constitution of the
8 State of Hawaii requires the State to conserve and protect
9 agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase
10 agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of
11 agriculturally suitable lands, and to provide standards and
12 criteria to accomplish those ends; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the recent rezoning of agricultural lands at Koa
15 Ridge by the Land Use Commission increases pressure to protect
16 remaining agricultural lands and reduces the possibility of
17 increasing agricultural self-sufficiency; and

18
19 WHEREAS, chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established
20 the Land Use Commission within the Department of Business,
21 Economic Development and Tourism for administrative purposes;
22 and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Land Use Commission reviews petitions to
25 reclassify district boundaries; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, amended
28 chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add a new part relating
29 to important agricultural lands to provide policies, definitions
30 and objectives, and standards and criteria for reclassification
31 or rezoning, among other things, by the Land Use Commission; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the original intent and functions of the Land Use
34 Commission have been criticized as subverting land use approvals



1 in favor of the constituencies of development, and shutting out
2 the public from the process; and
3

4 WHEREAS, each of the four counties have different
5 definitions of agricultural use (for example, section 174C-3,
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes, defines "agricultural use" in relation
7 to the State Water Code only) which together, do not direct the
8 State to increase its self-sufficiency and sustainability; and
9

10 WHEREAS, sustainability and self-sufficiency have become
11 ideas discussed in the public forum, such as at the Hawaii 2050
12 Sustainability Task Force conference; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the state Department of Agriculture is tasked
15 under section 205-49, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with recommending
16 to the Land Use Commission the identification and designation of
17 important agricultural lands, but the Department of Agriculture
18 has no jurisdiction over the zoning of agricultural lands; and
19

20 WHEREAS, real property taxes on agricultural lands are
21 determined by each county; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the support and promotion of important
24 agricultural lands for self-sufficiency and sustainability are
25 addressed by multiple government entities; and
26

27 WHEREAS, coordination among state entities is necessary to
28 support the use of agricultural lands to increase the State's
29 agricultural self-sufficiency and sustainability; and
30

31 WHEREAS, statewide initiatives on the use of agricultural
32 lands are necessary if the State is to increase its self-
33 sufficiency and sustainability; and
34

35 WHEREAS, an assessment and identification of what statewide
36 initiatives that would support self-sufficiency and
37 sustainability are necessary; now, therefore,
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
41 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to convene an
42 advisory group to develop a list of initiatives, especially
43 including changes to county zoning, government subsidies, and
44 private-public partnerships, that make the use of important



1 agricultural lands for sustainability and self-sufficiency
2 purposes a priority; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group be headed by
5 the Department of Agriculture; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group comprise
8 representatives from the Department of Business, Economic
9 Development, and Tourism, the Department of Land and Natural
10 Resources, and the Department of Agriculture, a representative
11 from each of the four counties, and representatives from other
12 entities such as the Ulupono Initiative, Kanu Hawaii, and the
13 Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group meet with
16 government and private entities and hold public meetings which
17 are subject to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group report to
20 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
21 of the Regular Session of 2012 with:
22

- 23 (1) Findings, recommended initiatives, and proposed
24 legislation to support self-sufficiency and
25 sustainability using agricultural lands;
26
- 27 (2) A proposed statutory definition of "farm"; and
28
- 29 (3) A prioritized listing of statewide agricultural
30 activities focusing on producing food for local
31 consumers; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
35 Agriculture; the Director of Business, Economic Development, and
36 Tourism; the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
37 Resources; the Mayor of each county; and the heads of Ulupono
38



1 Initiative, Kanu Hawaii, and the Hawaii Agriculture Research
2 Center.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:



