
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE HOW THE LAND USE COMMISSION
CAN REQUIRE MITIGATION FOR THE LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, agriculture in the form of sugar and pineapple
2 plantations used to stand as one of the main pillars of Hawaii's
3 economy; and
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5 WHEREAS, diversified agriculture, which provides products
6 like coffee, macadamia nuts, and tropical flowers, can continue
7 to contribute significantly to the state's economy; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is growing awareness by government leaders,
10 the business community, and residents in general about the
11 benefits of supporting local agriculture, including fresher
12 food, the increased re-circulation of profits within the local
13 economy, food security, and greater environmental
14 sustainability; and
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16 WHEREAS, the popularity of consuming locally grown and
17 produced food has risen markedly in recent years, as evidenced
18 by the growth of farmers' markets and other settings in which
19 consumers can purchase food directly from producers; and
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21 WHEREAS, a steady supply of food to Hawaii from offshore
22 producers depends on the availability of continuous
23 transportation links, which could be disrupted by a variety of
24 external factors beyond the state's control, such as natural
25 disasters, a calamitous spike in oil prices, or work stoppages
26 at West Coast ports; and
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28 WHEREAS, encouraging the expansion of local agriculture can
29 help reduce Hawaii's vulnerability to such externalities; and
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1 WHEREAS, the primary role of the State's Land Use
2 Commission is to ensure that areas of state concern are
3 addressed and considered in the land use decision-making
4 process; and

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6 WHEREAS, among its duties, the Land Use Commission:

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8 (1) Establishes the district boundaries for the entire
9 state;
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11 (2) Acts on petitions for boundary changes submitted by
12 private landowners, developers, and state and county
13 agencies; and
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15 (3) Acts on requests for special use permits within the
16 agricultural and rural districts;

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18 and

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20 WHEREAS, residential developments are often constructed on
21 lands that could be used for agricultural purposes; and

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23 WHEREAS, preserving agricultural lands--or at the very
24 least, mitigating their loss--should be a priority for the
25 State; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that an Agricultural-Lands Loss-
30 Mitigation Task Force (Task Force) be established to study how
31 the Land Use Commission can require mitigation for the loss of
32 agricultural lands; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be composed of:

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36 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
37 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who will
38 serve as the Chairperson of the Task Force;
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40 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
41 Chairperson's designee;
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43 (3) The Executive Officer of the Land Use Commission, or
44 the Executive Officer's designee;



- 1 (4) The Executive Director of the Land Use Research
- 2 Foundation of Hawaii;
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- 4 (5) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau
- 5 Federation, or the Executive Director's designee;
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- 7 (6) The President of the Hawaii Crop Improvement
- 8 Association, or the President's designee;
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- 10 (7) The Director of the Hawaii Developers' Council, or the
- 11 Director's designee; and
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- 13 (8) Any other person or organization deemed necessary by
- 14 the Chairperson of the Task Force;

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16 and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit to the
19 Legislature, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
20 Regular Session of 2012, a report of its findings and
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, after the
22 Task Force concludes its study; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
25 Bureau is requested to assist the Task Force in preparing its
26 report and any proposed legislation; provided that the
27 Chairperson of the Task Force submit a draft of the Task Force's
28 proposals to the Legislative Reference Bureau for drafting no
29 later than November 1, 2011; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
33 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
34 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Executive Officer of
35 the Land Use Commission, Executive Director of the Land Use
36 Research Foundation of Hawaii, Director of the Hawaii Farm
37 Bureau Federation, President of the Hawaii Crop Improvement
38 Association, Director of the Hawaii Developers' Council, and
39 Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY:



