

MAR 16 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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



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2 WHEREAS, the original intent and functions of the Land Use
3 Commission have been criticized as subverting land use approvals
4 in favor of the constituencies of development, and shutting out
5 the public from the process; and
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7 WHEREAS, each of the four counties have different
8 definitions of agricultural use (for example, section 174C-3,
9 Hawaii Revised Statutes, defines "agricultural use" in relation
10 to the State Water Code only) which together, do not direct the
11 State to increase its self-sufficiency and sustainability; and
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13 WHEREAS, sustainability and self-sufficiency have become
14 ideas discussed in the public forum, such as at the Hawaii 2050
15 Sustainability Task Force conference; and
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17 WHEREAS, the state Department of Agriculture is tasked
18 under section 205-49, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with recommending
19 to the Land Use Commission the identification and designation of
20 important agricultural lands, but the Department of Agriculture
21 has no jurisdiction over the zoning of agricultural lands; and
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23 WHEREAS, real property taxes on agricultural lands are
24 determined by each county; and
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26 WHEREAS, the support and promotion of important
27 agricultural lands for self-sufficiency and sustainability are
28 addressed by multiple government entities; and
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30 WHEREAS, coordination among state entities is necessary to
31 support the use of agricultural lands to increase the State's
32 agricultural self-sufficiency and sustainability; and
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34 WHEREAS, statewide initiatives on the use of agricultural
35 lands are necessary if the State is to increase its self-
36 sufficiency and sustainability; and
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38 WHEREAS, an assessment and identification of what statewide
39 initiatives that would support self-sufficiency and
40 sustainability are necessary; now, therefore,
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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
44 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



1 Agriculture is requested to convene an advisory group to develop
2 a list of initiatives, especially including changes to county
3 zoning, government subsidies, and private-public partnerships,
4 that make the use of important agricultural lands for
5 sustainability and self-sufficiency purposes a priority; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group be headed by
8 the Department of Agriculture; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group comprise
11 representatives from the Department of Business, Economic
12 Development, and Tourism, the Department of Land and Natural
13 Resources, and the Department of Agriculture, a representative
14 from each of the four counties, and representatives from other
15 entities such as the Ulupono Initiative, Kanu Hawaii, and the
16 Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group meet with
19 government and private entities and hold public meetings which
20 are subject to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory group report to
23 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
24 of the Regular Session of 2012 with:
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- 26 (1) Findings, recommended initiatives, and proposed
27 legislation to support self-sufficiency and
28 sustainability using agricultural lands;
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- 30 (2) A proposed statutory definition of "farm"; and
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- 32 (3) A prioritized listing of statewide agricultural
33 activities focusing on producing food for local
34 consumers; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
38 Board of Agriculture; the Director of Business, Economic
39 Development, and Tourism; the Chairperson of the Board of Land
40 and Natural Resources; the Mayor of each county; and the heads
41



S.C.R. NO. 112

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2 of Ulupono Initiative, Kanu Hawaii, and the Hawaii Agriculture
3 Research Center.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. M. Hill', is written over a horizontal line.

