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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS TO BE "EAT LOCAL, BUY LOCAL" DAY  
IN HAWAII AND ENCOURAGING FAMILIES, RESTAURANTS, AND  
GROCERS TO BUY HAWAII-GROWN FOODS, FLOWERS, AND PRODUCE.

1           WHEREAS, food self-sufficiency is one of the critical  
2 components of a sustainable community; and

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4           WHEREAS, the development of a vibrant and expansive  
5 agricultural industry is a major step forward in protecting  
6 Hawaii's food security and self-sustainability; and

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8           WHEREAS, as the most geographically isolated state in the  
9 country, Hawaii, the "island state", is dangerously dependent on  
10 imports for its basic food needs, since approximately 85 percent  
11 of this need is supplied through imported agricultural products,  
12 which is economically unsustainable and makes Hawaii's food  
13 supply vulnerable to disruptions that might occur around the  
14 world; and

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16           WHEREAS, if a disruption were to occur that halts the  
17 importation of food products, it has been estimated that Hawaii  
18 has less than five days worth of food supplies on store shelves  
19 and in local warehouses; and

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21           WHEREAS, while a key tenet of a strong economy is  
22 diversification, since a diversified economy absorbs the impacts  
23 from the cycles associated with any particular industry,  
24 Hawaii's economic base has often been criticized for being too  
25 dependent on the single industry of tourism; and

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27           WHEREAS, although tourism continues to be Hawaii's largest  
28 industry, concerns have been raised that local capacity  
29 constraints as well as increased competition from emerging  
30 destinations worldwide will affect the potential for further



1 growth in the tourism industry, and calls for economic  
2 diversification have been renewed; and

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4 WHEREAS, while there has been a demise in large plantation  
5 agriculture in Hawaii, the agricultural industry continues to  
6 play an important role in the state's economy with average  
7 agricultural sales per year in Hawaii amounting to over  
8 \$300,000,000, and continued support of this industry will not  
9 only promote Hawaii's food security and sustainability but also  
10 encourage economic growth and maintain economic stability; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's mild, year-round climate supports a  
13 fertile land that sustains over one million acres of farmland  
14 that in turn generates many different types of agricultural  
15 products, including various types of livestock, such as cattle,  
16 chickens, and hogs; supports a variety of crop agriculture, such  
17 as sugarcane, pineapple, macadamia nuts, coffee, cacao, ginger,  
18 banana, onions, sweet potato, lettuce, melons, numerous other  
19 vegetables, various flora, and seed crops; and supports the  
20 production of milk, eggs, honey, and chocolate, to name a few of  
21 the made-in-Hawaii products; and

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23 WHEREAS, while the quest to achieve 100 percent food self-  
24 sufficiency for Hawaii is admirable, the economic reality is  
25 that this goal is probably unattainable and that Hawaii will  
26 continue to import a large majority of its food supply; and

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28 WHEREAS, although the goal of an entirely food self-  
29 sufficient and sustainable community may not be practical,  
30 supporting, purchasing, and continuing to produce locally grown  
31 foods has several benefits, including keeping money flowing  
32 through the local community and helping local family farmers,  
33 food producers, and their families and employees; and

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35 WHEREAS, buying locally-produced agricultural products and  
36 supporting the growth of the agricultural industry also plays a  
37 role in protecting Hawaii's natural environment by reducing the  
38 amount of energy used in transporting foods to Hawaii, thus  
39 reducing Hawaii's carbon footprint as well as preserving open  
40 space for agricultural use; and

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42 WHEREAS, in a time of economic distress for our State, the  
43 support of Hawaii-grown products will help keep critical dollars  
44 within the State for the benefit of Hawaii; strengthen the



1 State's communities; and provide a boost to local business,  
2 which in turn will help the state and local governments through  
3 increased revenue streams; and

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5 WHEREAS, majority of the local farmers markets are held on  
6 weekends; and now, therefore

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
10 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that this body declares each  
11 weekend to be "Eat Local, Buy Local" Days in Hawaii and  
12 encourages families, restaurants, and grocers to buy Hawaii-  
13 grown foods, flowers, and produce because supporting Hawaii-  
14 grown food products will result in higher food quality, improved  
15 food safety and security, and provide economic benefits to  
16 Hawaii's communities; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of  
20 each county, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Interim  
21 Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and  
22 Human Resources of the University of Hawaii, Executive Director  
23 of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, President of the Hawaii  
24 Cattlemen's Council, and Chairperson of the Hawaii Food Industry  
25 Association.

