
HOUSE 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
31 growth in the tourism industry, and calls for economic
32 diversification have been renewed; and

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1 WHEREAS, while there has been a demise in large plantation
2 agriculture in Hawaii, the agricultural industry continues to
3 play an important role in the state's economy with average
4 agricultural sales per year in Hawaii amounting to over
5 \$300,000,000, and continued support of this industry will not
6 only promote Hawaii's food security and sustainability but also
7 encourage economic growth and maintain economic stability; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's mild, year-round climate supports a
10 fertile land that sustains over one million acres of farmland
11 that in turn generates many different types of agricultural
12 products, including various types of livestock, such as cattle,
13 chickens, and hogs; supports a variety of crop agriculture, such
14 as sugarcane, pineapple, macadamia nuts, coffee, cacao, ginger,
15 banana, onions, sweet potato, lettuce, melons, numerous other
16 vegetables, various flora, and seed crops; and supports the
17 production of milk, eggs, honey, and chocolate, to name a few of
18 the made-in-Hawaii products; and
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20 WHEREAS, while the quest to achieve 100 percent food self-
21 sufficiency for Hawaii is admirable, the economic reality is
22 that this goal is probably unattainable and that Hawaii will
23 continue to import a large majority of its food supply; and
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25 WHEREAS, although the goal of an entirely food self-
26 sufficient and sustainable community may not be practical,
27 supporting, purchasing, and continuing to produce locally grown
28 foods has several benefits, including keeping money flowing
29 through the local community and helping local family farmers,
30 food producers, and their families and employees; and
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32 WHEREAS, buying locally-produced agricultural products and
33 supporting the growth of the agricultural industry also plays a
34 role in protecting Hawaii's natural environment by reducing the
35 amount of energy used in transporting foods to Hawaii, thus
36 reducing Hawaii's carbon footprint as well as preserving open
37 space for agricultural use; and
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39 WHEREAS, in a time of economic distress for our State, the
40 support of Hawaii-grown products will help keep critical dollars
41 within the State for the benefit of Hawaii; strengthen the
42 State's communities; and provide a boost to local business,
43 which in turn will help the state and local governments through
44 increased revenue streams; and



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

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

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

