
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PROMOTE THE
EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMERCE.

1 WHEREAS, farms and agriculture-based businesses in Hawaii
2 are often family owned and operated; and
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4 WHEREAS, current zoning laws prevent farmers that live on
5 agricultural land from constructing enclosed country stores to
6 sell products grown on or crafted from the 'Aina; and
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8 WHEREAS, a number of other jurisdictions allow enclosed
9 country stores on agricultural lands; and
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11 WHEREAS, an enclosed country store owned and operated by a
12 farmer for the display and sale of agricultural products grown
13 in Hawaii and value-added products that were produced using
14 agricultural products grown in Hawaii is generally not permitted
15 on agricultural lands; and
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17 WHEREAS, enclosed country stores would be a simple and
18 effective way to provide greater access to and support for local
19 and sustainable agricultural products, by increasing the
20 visibility of farmers and capitalizing on the proximity of such
21 stores to actual working farms; and
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23 WHEREAS, enclosed country stores would also allow our local
24 farmers, particularly small scale farmers, to generate much-
25 needed additional revenue in these economically difficult times;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, enclosed country stores would also serve as a
29 source of unique pride for Hawaii's farming communities,
30 strengthen existing connections between farmers and the general



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1 public, and promote the nutritional benefits of freshly
2 harvested produce and other freshly made foods; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
7 Agriculture is requested to promote the expansion of
8 agricultural commerce by actively engaging in consultation and
9 discussions with the appropriate governmental entities and
10 relevant stakeholder groups, in order to facilitate the ability
11 of farmers to construct enclosed country stores on lands zoned
12 for agriculture; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governmental entities and
15 stakeholder groups are requested to include, but not be limited
16 to, the State Office of Planning, the planning departments of
17 the respective counties, the Department of Health, the
18 University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
19 Resources, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the Hawaii Organic
20 Farming Association; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussions are requested
23 to include, but not be limited to, more widespread use of
24 special permits for enclosed country stores owned and operated
25 by farmers, and the issuance of guidelines that would allow the
26 following retail activities in such enclosed country stores:
27 display and sale of agricultural products grown in Hawaii
28 including fresh produce and refrigerated eggs, value-added
29 products that were produced using agricultural products grown in
30 Hawaii, logo items related to the producer's agricultural
31 operations, and other food and food-related items; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
35 of Agriculture, the Director of Health, the Director of the
36 Office of Planning, the directors of the planning departments of
37 the respective counties, the mayors of the respective counties,
38 the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
39 Resources, the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the
40 President of the Hawaii Organic Farming Association.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

MAR 1 1 2016

