
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
31 public, and promote the nutritional benefits of freshly
32 harvested produce and other freshly made foods; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Agriculture is requested to promote the expansion of
5 agricultural commerce by actively engaging in consultation and
6 discussions with the appropriate governmental entities and
7 relevant stakeholder groups, including the Mayors and planning
8 departments of each county and the Hawaii Farm Bureau, to
9 facilitate the ability of farmers to construct enclosed country
10 stores on lands zoned for agriculture; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
14 of Agriculture, Mayors of the respective counties, directors of
15 the planning departments of the respective counties, and
16 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

