
HOUSE 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

3
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

7
8 WHEREAS, a number of other jurisdictions allow enclosed
9 country stores on agricultural lands; and

10
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

16
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

22
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

27
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,
33



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, that the Department of Agriculture is requested
 4 to promote the expansion of agricultural commerce by actively
 5 engaging in consultation and discussions with the appropriate
 6 governmental entities and relevant stakeholder groups, in order
 7 to facilitate the ability of farmers to construct enclosed
 8 country stores on lands zoned for agriculture; and
 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governmental entities and
 11 stakeholder groups are requested to include, but not be limited
 12 to, the State Office of Planning, the planning departments of
 13 the respective counties, the Department of Health, the
 14 University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
 15 Resources, the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the Hawaii Organic
 16 Farming Association; and
 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discussions are requested
 19 to include, but not be limited to, more widespread use of
 20 special permits for enclosed country stores owned and operated
 21 by farmers, and the issuance of guidelines that would allow the
 22 following retail activities in such enclosed country stores:
 23 display and sale of agricultural products grown in Hawaii
 24 including fresh produce and refrigerated eggs, value-added
 25 products that were produced using agricultural products grown in
 26 Hawaii, logo items related to the producer's agricultural
 27 operations, and other food and food-related items; and
 28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of
 31 Agriculture, the Director of Health, the Director of the Office
 32 of Planning, the directors of the planning departments of the
 33 respective counties, the mayors of the respective counties, the
 34 Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
 35 the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the President of
 36 the Hawaii Organic Farming Association.
 37
 38
 39

OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2016

