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## SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE WHITMORE PROJECT'S MISSION TO REVITALIZE HAWAII'S LOCAL AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND REQUESTING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE LAND AND PROVIDE LOCAL FARMERS WITH LONG-TERM LEASES.

1           WHEREAS, the downsizing of sugar and pineapple in the  
2 agriculture industry in Hawaii has resulted in local people  
3 losing their jobs and active farmlands becoming inactive; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Statewide Agricultural Land  
6 Use Baseline, it was reported that Hawaii's active agricultural  
7 land has decreased from 350,830 acres in 1980 to 151,830 acres  
8 in 2015, and that it is highly unlikely Hawaii will ever see  
9 that amount of land in active crop production again; and  
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11           WHEREAS, although the cessation of sugar and pineapple has  
12 had significant impacts on communities that were once dependent  
13 on plantation economies, it also presents the opportunity to  
14 transition towards a diversified agricultural model; and  
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16           WHEREAS, a twenty-first century agriculture industry must  
17 be based on scale and innovation to create highly-skilled  
18 agricultural jobs that are not representative of traditional  
19 farming; and  
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21           WHEREAS, according to data from the United States  
22 Department of Agriculture and Purdue University, the United  
23 States expects an annual average of nearly sixty thousand  
24 highly-skilled job openings in agriculture and agriculture-  
25 related industries; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the State established the Agribusiness Development  
28 Corporation in 1994 to facilitate the transition of former  
29 plantation land and water systems to diversify Hawaii's  
30 agricultural industry, initiate the development and support of  
31 agricultural facilities to assist local farmers, and provide  
32 solutions to issues facing the agricultural industry; and  
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1           WHEREAS, purchasing agricultural land and adding to the  
2 State's inventory protects agricultural land and also provides  
3 local farmers with long-term leases; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in 2012, the State purchased over seventeen  
6 hundred acres of agricultural land from the Galbraith Estate  
7 through a coordinated effort between the State, City and County  
8 of Honolulu, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, United States Army, and  
9 D.R. Horton; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation received  
12 twelve hundred acres of agricultural land and has dedicated this  
13 land to the Whitmore Project, which is a detailed plan to  
14 revitalize the local agricultural industry; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project provides the following  
17 solutions:  
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- 19           (1) Long-term lease options on state land;
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- 21           (2) Enhanced use leases;
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- 23           (3) Decreased cost and time of transportation due to  
24 clustered services;
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- 26           (4) Increased scale and diversity of products;
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- 28           (5) Co-working opportunities to leverage the high cost of  
29 equipment and supplies;
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- 31           (6) Converting idle and arable land into active land to  
32 achieve scale and diversity of product;
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- 34           (7) State and county tax incentives; and
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- 36           (8) Partnership opportunities; and  
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38           WHEREAS, placing more farmers on state land with long-term  
39 leases is crucial to increasing local food production, self-  
40 sufficiency, and food security; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the State should continue to purchase agricultural  
 2 land to ensure farmers can scale products and make investments  
 3 into their business; and

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 5           WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project will create clusters made up  
 6 of distribution, processing, support, and production to better  
 7 deliver services and food more efficiently and will create jobs  
 8 for highly-skilled workers in the ag-tech industry; and

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 10           WHEREAS, the Administration recognizes the importance of  
 11 self-sufficiency and has shown its commitment to the Whitmore  
 12 Project by continuing to invest and acquire agricultural lands  
 13 and facilities; now, therefore,

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 15           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,  
 17 that this body expresses its recognition of the Whitmore  
 18 Project's mission to revitalize Hawaii's local agricultural  
 19 industry by bringing farmers and the State together to increase  
 20 local food production, create jobs, engage in partnerships, and  
 21 provide workforce housing; and

22  
 23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agribusiness Development  
 24 Corporation is requested to continue its efforts to acquire land  
 25 and provide experienced local farmers with long-term leases; and

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 27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Agribusiness  
 29 Development Corporation and Executive Director of the  
 30 Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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OFFERED BY:

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