
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO FORM A TASK FORCE FOR EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF FOREST FARMING PIGS WITHIN DOUBLE FENCED ENCLOSURES ON THE STATE'S AGRICULTURE LANDS ON ISLANDS WITH AREAS GREATER THAN 4000 SQUARE MILES.

1 WHEREAS, pigs evolved in Southeast Asia about two million
2 years ago living in forests, especially where there are oak
3 trees that produced acorns; and
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5 WHEREAS, due to the challenges and labor involved in
6 hunting wild pigs, humans began to tame them about 12,000 years
7 ago; and
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9 WHEREAS, pigs have played an important cultural role in
10 Hawaii since Polynesians first transported them to the islands
11 in Canoes in the 1200's; and
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13 WHEREAS, pigs quickly became a popular food source because
14 they are so easy to keep, would eat almost anything and their
15 meat could be easily preserved with salt; and
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17 WHEREAS, ninety-seven percent of U.S. pig meat currently
18 comes from tame swine raised on conventional farms; and
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20 WHEREAS, these traditional farms primarily feed their stock
21 corn and soybean meal with dried whey for additional protein;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, though most pigs are raised in captivity, wild
25 populations still exist and are highly prized for their complex
26 rich flavor and meat color; and



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2 WHEREAS, a small but growing niche market for pasture
3 forested pigs which exhibit organic wild pig meat
4 characteristics is emerging within the U.S.; and
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6 WHEREAS, grazing tame pigs in forests have been casually
7 practiced in one form or another since their formal
8 domestication; and
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10 WHEREAS, almost 1,000 years ago in the eastern shires of
11 England, European pannage was a common practice; and
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13 WHEREAS, this consisted of releasing pigs into the forest
14 to feed on fallen tree nuts and seeds. It was considered a right
15 or privilege granted to local people on common land or in royal
16 forests; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Spain the multifunctional agro-sylvo-pastoral
19 system called dehesa became common 800 years ago and were
20 usually linked to the large properties owned by military orders;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, it may have been a simply land management strategy
24 which provided additional economic agricultural byproducts; and
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26 WHEREAS, presently Spanish dehesas continue to still be
27 used for pig grazing September through April when trees are
28 producing their nuts and seeds; and
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30 WHEREAS, dehesas are the largest and most notable pasture
31 forested pig operations in the world; and
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33 WHEREAS, English pannage is no longer practiced but can
34 still be observed yearly with 600 pigs for a minimum of sixty
35 days at the New Forest National Park; and
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37 WHEREAS, these two agroforestry systems serve as examples
38 for many small production operations scattered throughout Europe
39 and the U.S.; and
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41 WHEREAS, in non-industrialized countries pigs still are set
42 out to freely roam and find their own feed in the bushes or
43 forest; and
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1 WHEREAS, they return to sheltered wooden pens in the
2 evening for warmth and sleep; and

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4 WHEREAS, pigs raised in this way take four to five times as
5 long to grow to harvest size; and

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7 WHEREAS, pigs are currently blamed for damaging native
8 forests when grazing ungulates were primarily responsible for
9 the majority of deforestation in Hawaii in places such as
10 Kahoolawe and Haleakala and the slopes of the Big Island; and

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12 WHEREAS, demand for richer flavored, redder colored, better
13 textured and more humanely raised pigs continues to grow in
14 industrialized counties; and

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16 WHEREAS, some believe this sustainable approach to
17 agriculture is what will feed the future; and

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19 WHEREAS, the market for this product is still miniscule in
20 comparison to that of industrialized operations and research has
21 not yet been conducted to determine if pasture forested pigs
22 could be sustainable or profitable on a large scale; and

23
24 WHEREAS, as more rural communities continue to shrink, more
25 agricultural land will become fallow in the United States; and

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27 WHEREAS, rejuvenating forest ecosystems in conjunction with
28 pig pasture management strategies like this may increase
29 biodiversity and productivity; and

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31 WHEREAS, pasture forested pigs will remain an important
32 product until the small niche market is saturated or cost and
33 production rates are competitive with conventionally methods;
34 now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
39 Agriculture is requested to convene a task force including but
40 not limited to representatives from the Department of Land and
41 Natural Resources, University of Hawaii College of Tropical
42 Agriculture and Human Resources, and the University of Hawaii at
43 Hilo and any other relevant parties for evaluating the
44 feasibility of forest farming pigs within double fenced



1 enclosures on the state's agriculture lands on Islands with
2 areas greater than 4000 square Miles; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
5 is requested to report to the Legislature no later than twenty
6 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018 on
7 its efforts, including any proposed legislation, to develop and
8 implement a reforestation and forest farmed pig program using
9 state agricultural pasture land; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
13 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the
14 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Dean of the
15 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture
16 and Human Resources, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii at
17 Hilo College Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource
18 Management.
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