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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN  
COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO SUBMIT  
A REPORT DETERMINING A LIVING WAGE STANDARD FOR  
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS LIVING IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, "living wage" is defined as a wage sufficient to  
2 provide the necessities and comforts essential to an acceptable  
3 standard of living; and

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5           WHEREAS, agricultural workers employed in the State earn  
6 wages less than other states and their wages are below living  
7 wage standards; and

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9           WHEREAS, according to the Massachusetts Institute of  
10 Technology, an hourly wage of \$15.73 is considered livable in  
11 the State of Hawai'i; and

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13           WHEREAS, the shortage of agricultural workers has posed a  
14 significant challenge to Governor David Ige's Sustainable Hawai'i  
15 Initiative, which plans on doubling local food production by  
16 2020 and additionally, in the long term, to locally produce  
17 twenty percent of food by 2050 under the 2050 Sustainability  
18 Plan; and

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20           WHEREAS, increasing the wages earned by agricultural  
21 workers will incentivize individuals to pursue an occupation in  
22 the agricultural workforce; and

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24           WHEREAS, competitive wages in the agriculture sector will  
25 contribute in the retention of skilled individuals employed in  
26 the agricultural workforce; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of  
3 2019, that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in  
4 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, is requested  
5 to submit to the Legislature a report determining a living wage  
6 standard for agricultural workers living in the State; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include, but not be  
9 limited to, the following:

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- 11 (1) A breakdown of the average living wage for each  
12 county;
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  - 14 (2) The living wage for each county adjusted for employer-  
15 provided housing, health insurance, transportation,  
16 and meals, as applicable;
  - 17
  - 18 (3) A breakdown of the average living expenses for an  
19 agricultural worker living in each county;
  - 20
  - 21 (4) The current median wage earned by agricultural workers  
22 in the State;
  - 23
  - 24 (5) Annual data of local food production in the State  
25 since 2000; and
  - 26
  - 27 (6) Annual data of agricultural workers employed in the  
28 State since 2000; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and  
31 Industrial Relations, in collaboration with the Department of  
32 Agriculture, is requested to submit the report to the  
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
34 the Regular Session of 2020; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Labor and  
 3 Industrial Relations, and Chairperson of the Board of  
 4 Agriculture.  
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 6  
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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 06 2019

