

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO INCREASE COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND TO PREVENT  
ABUSE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES.

1           WHEREAS, it is the State's responsibility under Article XI,  
2 Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution to conserve and  
3 protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture,  
4 increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the  
5 availability of agriculturally suitable lands; and

6

7           WHEREAS, Hawaii's agricultural production is insufficient  
8 to meet the State's food consumption needs, and this over-  
9 reliance on imported food creates critical issues for the  
10 State's health, safety and security, sustainable future, and  
11 preparedness in the event of future disaster, emergency, or  
12 crisis; and

13

14           WHEREAS, over the past few years, the State has made it a  
15 priority to shift toward sustainability in agriculture and to  
16 decrease the reliance on food imports; and

17

18           WHEREAS, state and federal programs offer various  
19 incentives and subsidies to promote agriculture, including low-  
20 interest loans, low water rates, affordable land leases, tax  
21 credits, and grants; and

22

23           WHEREAS, some individuals abuse the benefits provided to  
24 farmers by building unpermitted structures on agricultural  
25 lands, illegally selling their leases, or simply failing to use  
26 the land for agriculture; now, therefore,

27

28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
30 2019, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to study  
31 and make recommendations on how to increase compliance with the



1 various requirements for agricultural lands and to prevent abuse  
2 of agricultural land leases, including:

- 3
- 4 (1) Methods to increase the effectiveness of Department of
- 5 Agriculture employees who inspect agricultural lands
- 6 for noncomplying structures and uses, including
- 7 enforcing provisions prohibiting individuals from
- 8 living on agricultural lands and constructing illegal
- 9 structures;
- 10
- 11 (2) Preventing other impermissible uses of lands within
- 12 the agricultural district;
- 13
- 14 (3) Confiscating leases from individuals who have leased
- 15 agricultural land from the State and allowed the land
- 16 to remain uncultivated for extended periods;
- 17
- 18 (4) Stopping the illegal subleasing of agricultural
- 19 leases; and
- 20
- 21 (5) Addressing other hindrances, issues, and policies that
- 22 limit the Department of Agriculture's ability to
- 23 address violations of agricultural requirements; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
26 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
27 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
28 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
29 the Regular Session of 2020; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of  
33 Agriculture.

34  
35  
36 OFFERED BY:

*Lynn DeLente*  
~~*Richard ...*~~  
~~*J.K.W.*~~  
~~*[Signature]*~~  
~~*[Signature]*~~  
*Rita Catherine Arakawa*  
*Amy Pardo*

