

MAR 08 2019

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES, AND OTHER RELATED ENTITIES TO TAKE ACTION  
TO HELP EXPAND THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, one of the Governor's key issue platforms is to  
2 double local food production by 2020; and  
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4 WHEREAS, nearly ninety percent of Hawaii's current food  
5 stock is imported, including more than sixty percent of seafood  
6 consumed in the State; and  
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8 WHEREAS, importing food in such high quantities leads to  
9 higher food prices, increased carbon emissions, and increased  
10 threats from invasive species; and  
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12 WHEREAS, several studies have shown that anywhere from  
13 twenty to thirty-three percent of seafood imported to the United  
14 States is fraudulently labeled, posing serious health risks and  
15 sustainability concerns; and  
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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's per capita fish consumption is almost  
18 three times larger than the per capita fish consumption of the  
19 United States mainland; and  
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21 WHEREAS, in 2017, Hawaii's aquaculture industry farm gate  
22 value was \$76,400,000, the third highest contribution to the  
23 economy in diversified agriculture; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii's favorable climate and geography allow for  
26 inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the former Aquaculture Development Program within  
29 the Department of Agriculture, once a critical program that



1 helped propel Hawaii to the forefront of aquaculture research  
2 and development, has recently been downsized, overhauled to  
3 include livestock issues, and is now known as the Aquaculture  
4 and Livestock Support Services Branch; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 753, currently before the  
7 Legislature, acknowledges the importance of the Aquaculture  
8 Development Program and proposes to revitalize the Department of  
9 Agriculture's Animal Industry Division; and

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11 WHEREAS, a revitalized aquaculture industry could help  
12 revitalize rural communities that have been increasingly left  
13 behind by other economic drivers; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the potential for aquaculture is enormous, and  
16 doubling current aquaculture production in the United States  
17 would create fifty thousand jobs and generate one billion  
18 dollars in market value; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, more investment and research into the aquaculture  
21 industry is needed, including investment and research into  
22 different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization,  
23 economic implications of various methods of aquaculture  
24 production, and sustainable scaling methods; now, therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
28 Representatives concurring, that the Governor, the Department of  
29 Agriculture, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
30 Agriculture and Human Resources, and other related entities are  
31 urged to take action to help expand the aquaculture industry  
32 within the State in an effort to meet the Governor's goal of  
33 doubling local food production; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii  
36 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is urged to  
37 transfer parcels identified as Tax Map Keys 5-8-001-013,  
38 5-8-001-055, 5-8-001-007, and 5-8-001-006 to the Agribusiness  
39 Development Corporation for the purposes of establishing  
40 aquaculture production in those lands; and

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# S.C.R. NO. 126

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
 3 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Administrator of the  
 4 Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division, Program  
 5 Manager of Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services, Dean of  
 6 the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and  
 7 Human Resources, and Executive Director of the Agribusiness  
 8 Development Corporation.

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 11

OFFERED BY:

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