

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO CREATE A
STRATEGY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN FARMING.

1 WHEREAS, local agriculture is critical to self-sufficiency
2 and food security for the State; and

3
4 WHEREAS, about eighty-five to ninety percent of Hawaii's
5 food is imported, which makes Hawaii particularly vulnerable to
6 natural disasters and global events that disrupt shipping and
7 other modes of transporting food; and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii does not have an adequate-sized farming
10 workforce for expansion of cultivated agricultural lands and
11 food production; and

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13 WHEREAS, a primary cause of the shortage of new farmers in
14 Hawaii during the past several decades is the decline of support
15 for agriculture education from state government, resulting in an
16 insufficient interest in pursuing the fields of agriculture and
17 natural resource management among youth; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in order to meet the State's aspirations for
20 increased food security and self-sufficiency, the number of
21 local farms and farmers and the amount of food produced for
22 local markets will need to increase significantly; and

23
24 WHEREAS, agriculture education and interest are key to the
25 development of future farmers and to a society that values and
26 understands the vital role of agriculture, food, fiber, and
27 natural resource systems in advancing personal, local, and
28 global well-being; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of



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1 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Agriculture,
 2 Department of Education, and University of Hawaii at Manoa
 3 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources are
 4 requested to create a strategy for students to learn about
 5 modern farming; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
 8 Department of Education, and University of Hawaii at Manoa
 9 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources are
 10 requested to consider modern farming technologies, including
 11 methods and techniques of modern farming related to aquaponics,
 12 hydroponics, machinery, soil and water sensors, weather
 13 tracking, satellite imaging, pervasive automation,
 14 minichromosomal technology, radio-frequency identification
 15 technology, and vertical farming; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in
 18 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and University
 19 of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
 20 Resources, is requested to submit a report of its findings and
 21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 23 the Regular Session of 2020; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 27 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of
 28 the Board of Agriculture, and Dean of the University of Hawaii
 29 at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.
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