
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 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

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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

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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

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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,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Agriculture,
4 Department of Education, and University of Hawaii at Manoa
5 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources are
6 requested to create a strategy for students to learn about
7 modern farming; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at
10 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources serve
11 as the lead agency in creating the strategy; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at
14 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
15 Department of Agriculture, and Department of Education, are
16 requested to consider modern farming technologies, including
17 methods and techniques of modern farming related to aquaponics,
18 hydroponics, machinery, soil and water sensors, weather
19 tracking, satellite imaging, pervasive automation,
20 minichromosomal technology, radio-frequency identification
21 technology, greenhouse technology, and vertical farming; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to
24 include a plan for new curriculum that is appropriate for
25 students in the public school system in grades six through
26 twelve; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to
29 also include proposals to address land tenure issues for farmers
30 including but not limited to long-term land leases and
31 infrastructure concerns; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy is requested to
34 include information gathered from other countries that have
35 adopted modern agricultural practices that have resulted in
36 higher yields, greater productivity, lower input costs, and
37 increased profitability for farmers; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at
40 Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in
41 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Department
42 of Education, is requested to submit a report of its findings



1 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
2 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
3 the Regular Session of 2020; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
7 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of
8 the Board of Agriculture, and Dean of the University of Hawaii
9 at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.
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