

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ANALYZE THE FEASIBILITY OF
NEGOTIATING LAND EXCHANGES TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR THE STATE
THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR LONG-TERM DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION IN EXCHANGE FOR STATE LANDS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR
AFFORDABLE, WORKFORCE, AND OTHER HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's agricultural production is insufficient
2 to meet the State's needs, leaving the State reliant on imported
3 food; and

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5 WHEREAS, this overreliance on imported food raises critical
6 concerns about the State's safety, security, and sustainability;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, codified the
10 State's commitment to promoting the growth and development of
11 diversified agriculture and to promoting economically
12 competitive activities that expand the State's agricultural
13 self-sufficiency and local food production; and

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15 WHEREAS, the State also faces a critical shortage of safe
16 and sanitary housing for Hawaii residents, including affordable
17 and workforce housing; and

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19 WHEREAS, the lack of suitable lands available for the
20 development of affordable housing is a major contributing factor
21 to the State's housing crisis; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the possibility exists to address both the
24 challenges of achieving agricultural self-sufficiency and the
25 lack of affordable housing by exchanging state lands suitable
26 for housing development for privately-owned agricultural land
27 suitable for farming; now, therefore,
28



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Governor is requested to
4 analyze the feasibility of negotiating land exchanges to acquire
5 lands for the State that are suitable for long-term diversified
6 agricultural production in exchange for state lands to be
7 developed for affordable, workforce, and other housing; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is encouraged to
10 consider departments and agencies that hold title to or an
11 assignment of state land that may be suitable for exchange; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's analysis is
14 urged to focus on exchanges that could simultaneously address
15 the State's agricultural and housing needs by:
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- 17 (1) Providing to the State large tracts of suitable
18 agricultural lands that may be leased to local
19 farmers; and
20
- 21 (2) Providing to private parties urban lands suitable for
22 the development of affordable housing, workforce
23 housing, and other housing inventory for Hawaii
24 residents and mixed-use commercial and accessory uses
25 within areas designated for transit-oriented
26 development and other appropriate urbanized areas; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
29 submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
30 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2022 to include:
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- 32 (1) A discussion of the feasibility and advisability of
33 negotiating land exchanges;
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- 35 (2) A list of lands potentially suitable for exchange,
36 including a description and the market value of each
37 parcel; and
38
- 39 (3) Recommendations regarding any appropriations, proposed
40 legislation, or administrative actions necessary to
41 facilitate the land exchanges; and
42



S.C.R. NO. 163

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
 3 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 4 Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and Director
 5 of the Office of Planning.

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OFFERED BY:

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