

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO UPDATE ITS MISSION STATEMENT TO INCLUDE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION TO SUPPLY LOCAL COMMUNITY CONSUMPTION, AND TO FEATURE THE MISSION STATEMENT MORE PROMINENTLY ON ITS WEBSITE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLICATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the current mission of the Department of
2 Agriculture is to promote the conservation, development, and
3 utilization of agricultural resources in the State; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the mission of supporting an expanding local
6 agriculture sector is essential to the overall viability of the
7 State's economy and yet, is not included in the Department's
8 mission statement; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the challenges to the food supply chain and losses
11 of regular market sales for farmers and ranchers in the State
12 during the coronavirus 2019 pandemic highlighted the importance
13 of supporting local food production to specifically meet local
14 consumption demands; and
15

16 WHEREAS, local agriculture in the State currently generates
17 about \$500 million in farm-gate revenues annually and provides
18 thousands of jobs statewide and, when the economic value of
19 other agriculture related industries are considered, the total
20 value of agriculture jumps to nearly \$3 billion a year and
21 provides approximately forty-two thousand jobs statewide; and
22

23 WHEREAS, local agriculture contributes to a desired
24 physical environment for both residents and visitors and
25 promotes economic as well as social well-being in rural
26 districts across the State; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the State and the people of Hawaii will benefit
29 from the explicit assertion and prioritization of local
30 agriculture production by the Department of Agriculture; now,
31 therefore,
32



S.R. NO. 173

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
3 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to update its
4 mission statement to incorporate new language as follows:

5

6 "To serve Hawaii citizens by promoting and enhancing all
7 agriculture; protecting a safe, healthy food supply for
8 local consumption; and expanding local and global
9 agricultural trade. This will be accomplished through
10 efficient management, innovation, resource access,
11 infrastructure development, and sound science for all
12 agriculture with a balanced commitment to the needs of
13 agribusiness, environmental, and cultural stewardship.";
14 and

15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
17 is requested to feature its mission statement more prominently
18 on its website and uniformly in its publications; and

19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
22 Agriculture.

23

24

25

OFFERED BY: 

