
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONVENE AN
ADVISORY COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CERTAIN ISSUES TO GUIDE
ACTION AND PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE, AND
FOOD SYSTEMS INDUSTRIES OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the Hawaii Statewide
2 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to increase the
3 quality of life of its residents and create conditions for all
4 people to thrive and fulfil their potential; and

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6 WHEREAS, one of the eight economic industry clusters
7 identified in the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic
8 Development Strategy is agriculture, aquaculture, and food
9 systems; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic
12 Development Strategy's goal for the State's agriculture,
13 aquaculture, and food systems industries is to grow Hawaii's
14 agricultural and aquacultural sectors (including non-food
15 production) to diversify the economy, build resilient systems,
16 and increase self-sufficiency while protecting Hawaii's natural
17 and cultural resources through various objectives, such as
18 encouraging the purchase of local agricultural products from
19 state and county governments, businesses, visitors and consumers
20 and integrating local agricultural supply chain and
21 infrastructure to increase value chain coordination; and

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23 WHEREAS, according to section 226-7, Hawaii Revised
24 Statutes, it is the policy of the State to establish a clear
25 direction for Hawaii's agriculture through stakeholder
26 commitment and advocacy to achieve the State's agricultural
27 objectives; and

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29 WHEREAS, as the State moves toward its self-sufficiency and
30 food security goals, the Legislature finds that an advisory
31 commission is necessary to increase communication; provide



1 expert and credible guidance; and engage strategic partnerships
2 between the State's private sectors, community leaders, and
3 relevant stakeholders to support the State's desired increase in
4 exports and local food production, as well as the overarching
5 goal of creating a sustainable local economy; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
10 Agriculture is requested to establish an advisory commission to
11 address certain issues to guide action and progress in the
12 agriculture, aquaculture, and food systems industries of the
13 State; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is
16 requested to meet twice a year, once in June and once in
17 November, to address certain agriculture, aquaculture, and food
18 systems issues including but not limited to:
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- 20 (1) Competition for same resources;
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- 22 (2) Labor issues;
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- 24 (3) Drought and climate change;
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- 26 (4) Invasive species;
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- 28 (5) Overview of new regulations;
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- 30 (6) Water access and development; and
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- 32 (7) Waste management; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is also
35 requested to:
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- 37 (1) Examine and rank the following priority actions of the
38 Hawaii State Comprehensive Economic Development
39 Strategy for the State's agriculture, aquaculture, and
40 food systems industries:
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- 1 (A) Expand the "Farm to State" Program, government
2 procurement, and institutional purchasing of
3 local agricultural products;
4
- 5 (B) Market farm-to-table initiatives that promote
6 local food consumption and reduce food waste with
7 government, businesses, and residents;
8
- 9 (C) Promote agritourism to integrate local
10 agriculture and aquaculture into the visitor
11 experience;
12
- 13 (D) Expand accessibility and affordability programs
14 that increase equitable access to and consumption
15 of fresh and nutritious foods for low-income
16 households;
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- 18 (E) Support culturally based foods with community
19 biocultural land stewardship and farms;
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- 21 (F) Identify appropriate export non-food and food
22 crops while prioritizing food production for
23 local consumption;
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- 25 (G) Establish food hubs and cooperatives on all
26 islands to increase access to markets and
27 aggregate services, recognizing that investments
28 utilizing public funds should be done with
29 agricultural operations as the core beneficiary
30 versus operator of these facilities;
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- 32 (H) Increase cooperative transportation for cost-
33 sharing and coordination of local agricultural
34 products;
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- 36 (I) Increase local agricultural-related facilities and
37 access, including processing plants,
38 slaughterhouses, commercial kitchens, storage,
39 and distribution; and
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- 41 (J) Review existing built infrastructure to increase
42 resilience, safety, and equitable access; and



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(2) Make detailed recommendations on changes to state and local regulations to encourage the purchase of local agricultural products from state and county governments, businesses, visitors, and consumers and to integrate local agricultural supply chain and infrastructure to increase value chain coordination;

(3) Review the Department of Agriculture and how it tracks statistics compared to the United States Department of Agriculture;

(4) Review regulations on existing distribution channels, including food trucks, farm roadside stands, farmers markets, food hubs and farm tours, and barriers in regulation and land use that prevent the State from increasing local food in the State's food supply; and

(5) Evaluate federal initiatives underway that would impact local producers; getting food from farm to table; the purchase of local agricultural products from state and county governments, businesses, visitors, and consumers; and local agricultural supply chains and infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, who is requested to serve as the chair of the advisory commission, is requested to invite a representative from each of the following segments of agriculture to serve on the advisory commission:

- (1) Aquaculture;
- (2) Harvested acreage, including field crops and taro;
- (3) Vegetables;
- (4) Fruits; and
- (5) Fruit and nut trees; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
2 Agriculture may invite other individuals with relevant knowledge
3 or experience to be members of the advisory commission; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member be made subject to
6 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
7 member's participation in the advisory commission; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
10 is requested to provide administrative support to the advisory
11 commission; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
15 Board of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:



