
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE HAWAII
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's farms and farmers reflect the heritage
2 and diversity of many cultures and people and are the
3 cornerstones of the State's goals for food security,
4 sustainability, and self-sufficiency; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution mandates the
7 preservation and protection of agricultural resources; and
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9 WHEREAS, the number of small farms in Hawaii has grown
10 substantially during the last ten years, shifting the
11 agricultural landscape from plantations to smaller farms with
12 diverse cropping and marketing systems; and
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14 WHEREAS, there is a renewed interest in planting school
15 gardens and enabling children to eat and enjoy food grown on
16 campus; and
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18 WHEREAS, these trends are creating new local food sources
19 and increased employment, which necessitate the development of
20 science-based good agricultural practices and risk-reducing
21 guidelines to prevent potential food product contamination; and
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23 WHEREAS, at the national level, the Food and Safety
24 Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug
25 Administration to develop science- and risk-based criteria for
26 preventing food-borne illnesses and encourages states to
27 establish similar intrastate criteria for the safe production,
28 distribution, and consumer handling of food; and
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30 WHEREAS, due to economic thresholds, the Food Safety
31 Modernization Act only covers twenty-one percent of produce
32 farms in the United States, and oversight will not come to
33 Hawaii until 2017 or 2018, and even then will not cover the full
34 range of behaviors that are covered by a solid good agricultural
35 practices program; and
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1 WHEREAS, good agricultural practices programs established
2 elsewhere, including Georgia-GAPs, CanadaGAPs, KenyaGAPs, and
3 ThaiGAPs, and the United States Department of Agriculture
4 Agricultural Marketing Service's Harmonized Audit provide risk-
5 reducing practices including on-farm and packing-shed best
6 practices for human hygiene, pest and on-farm animal management,
7 field management, use of pesticide, fertilizer, and soil
8 amendment, water quality for irrigation and produce rinse,
9 packing-shed operations and maintenance, and product traceback;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has auditors
13 trained in good agricultural practices and an existing auditing
14 rate structure that is the least expensive in the nation; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has a
17 successful history of agricultural oversight; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2015, that the Department of Agriculture is requested
22 to establish a Hawaii good agricultural practices program for
23 farms growing local agricultural food products; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii good agricultural
26 practices program:

- 27 (1) Develop science- and risk- based good agricultural
28 practices that reasonably reduce the potential for on-
29 farm food-borne illness and include, as appropriate,
30 specific considerations and methodologies for farm
31 sizes, practices, techniques, materials, and crops;
- 32 (2) Develop and implement programs to educate and train
33 Hawaii farmers to learn and implement good
34 agricultural practices in a cost-effective and
35 efficient manner;
- 36 (3) Provide procedures for the voluntary verification of
37 on-farm implementation of good agricultural practices
38 and the subsequent issuance of state compliance
39 certification; and



- 1 (4) Develop a consumer information program for publication
2 and broadcast to teach home practices for the
3 treatment and handling of fresh and processed
4 agricultural food products; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
7 consult as necessary with the Department of Health, the
8 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
9 Resources, and other state and federal agencies to develop and
10 implement the Hawaii good agricultural practices program; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
14 Agriculture and Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

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