
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP
INCENTIVES AND PREFERENCES FOR SMALL FARMERS TO ALLOW THEM
TO EXPAND AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOOD SELF-
SUFFICIENCY OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, agricultural sustainability and food self-
2 sufficiency are an increasing concern for the people of Hawaii
3 due to our overwhelming dependence on imported food which is
4 exacerbated by the volatile international oil market and the
5 increasing costs of international transportation; and
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7 WHEREAS, food grown locally has been principally produced
8 by small farmers and not by large-scale, fossil fuel-dependent,
9 export-oriented agribusinesses; and
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11 WHEREAS, a "small farmer" is defined as a person who:

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- 13 (1) Is a natural individual or a cooperative or group of
14 not more than five natural individuals;
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 - 16 (2) Owns or leases or has owned or leased land and has
17 engaged in agricultural activities on the land;
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 - 19 (3) Has a proven farming ability;
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 - 21 (4) Devotes at least seventy per cent of that person's
22 time to farming; and
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 - 24 (5) Grows and sells at least eighty per cent of the crops
25 that person produces within the State; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has the authority to
28 plan, develop, and manage agricultural parks and non-
29 agricultural park lands transferred to the Department from the
30 Department of Land and Natural Resources; now, therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 3 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 4 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
 5 Agriculture is requested to explore and develop incentives and
 6 preferences that may be granted to small farmers to allow them
 7 to expand and continue to contribute to the food self-
 8 sufficiency of the State; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 11 is requested to report its findings and recommendations,
 12 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later
 13 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 14 of 2010; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 18 Board of Agriculture.
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 20
 21

OFFERED BY:

Mele Carroll
Maika
Karen Arakawa
AW
Cindy Evans

MAR 17 2009

