
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO OPTIMIZE
THE USE OF THE KAMUELA VACUUM COOLING PLANT.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's farmers face formidable challenges in
2 competing against mainland and foreign farmers for market share
3 as Hawaii imports eighty-five per cent of its food, at an
4 estimated cost of \$4,500,000,000 annually; and
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6 WHEREAS, agricultural facilities such as vacuum cooling
7 plants, slaughterhouses, processing facilities, experimental
8 stations, marshalling yards, and agricultural research
9 laboratories are critical to ensuring the viability of Hawaii's
10 agricultural industry; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant on the island of
13 Hawaii is operated by the Kamuela Farmers Cooperative, which
14 consists of sixty members, and processes approximately seven
15 million pounds of produce annually, while also providing storage
16 and limited processing services; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant is nearly thirty
19 years old and has sustained severe wind damage that led to its
20 roof being repaired in 2008; the Plant's maintenance program
21 crippled by energy costs; and
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23 WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan is needed to ensure that the
24 Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant is used in the most efficient and
25 effective manner possible; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2009, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to
30 consult with the Lalamilo Farmers Cooperative and the Big Island
31 Farm Bureau to develop a plan to optimize the use of the Kamuela
32 Vacuum Cooling Plant; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
2 the plan address, at a minimum, the following items of concern:

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- 4 (1) The needs of farmers and how the Kamuela Vacuum
5 Cooling Plant can best address these needs;
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- 7 (2) The potential of the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant to
8 support farmers, assist in the diversification of
9 agriculture, provide for value-added products, and
10 support economies of scale; and
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- 12 (3) An evaluation of the costs to operate, repair, and
13 upgrade the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant to meet the
14 needs and achieve the goals specified in items (1) and
15 (2), above; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
18 is requested to submit the plan to optimize future use of the
19 Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant to the Legislature no later than
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
21 2010; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
25 Agriculture, the Chair of the Lalamilo Farmers Cooperative, and
26 the President of the Big Island Farm Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2009

