
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO EXPEND MONIES ALREADY DEDICATED IN ITS 2010-2011 EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO MAP AND DETERMINE IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS ON OAHU, FOR THAT PURPOSE.

1 WHEREAS, the 1978 Constitutional Convention mandated
2 protection of Important Agricultural Lands; and
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4 WHEREAS, article XI, section 3, of the Constitution of the
5 State of Hawaii requires the State to conserve and protect
6 agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase
7 agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of
8 agriculturally suitable lands, and to provide standards and
9 criteria to accomplish those ends; and
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11 WHEREAS, the recent rezoning of agricultural lands at Koa
12 Ridge by the Land Use Commission increases pressure to protect
13 remaining agricultural lands and reduces the possibility of
14 increasing agricultural self-sufficiency; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Land Use Commission reviews petitions to
17 reclassify land use district boundaries; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Land Use Commission has been criticized for
20 subverting land use approvals in favor of the constituencies of
21 development and shutting out the public from its land use
22 reclassification process; and
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24 WHEREAS, Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, amended
25 chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add a new part relating
26 to Important Agricultural Lands that established requirements
27 necessary to carry out the provisions of article XI, section 3,
28 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii relating to
29 conservation and protection of agricultural lands and
30 agricultural self-sufficiency; and
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32 WHEREAS, Act 183 (2005) established a process to designate
33 Important Agricultural Lands, and the first stage of this
34 process, which has already commenced, allows farmers and



1 landowners to voluntarily petition the Land Use Commission to
2 designate their lands as Important Agricultural Lands; and
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4 WHEREAS, the second stage of the designation process
5 requires each county to identify lands for potential designation
6 as Important Agricultural Lands and to petition the Land Use
7 Commission to designate these lands as Important Agricultural
8 Lands, and this process is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2011;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, each county is required to cooperate with
12 landowners, the Department of Agriculture, agriculture interest
13 groups, including representatives from the Hawaii Farm Bureau
14 Federation and other agricultural organizations, the United
15 States Department of Agriculture, the Office of Planning, and
16 other groups as necessary to develop maps of potential Important
17 Agricultural Lands; and
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19 WHEREAS, each county is required to hold a series of public
20 meetings to receive public input in the identification of
21 potential lands and the development of maps of lands to be
22 recommended as Important Agricultural Lands; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Executive Operating Budget and Program for the
25 City and County of Honolulu for the 2010-2011 fiscal year sets
26 aside \$500,000 for funding for a study to identify and map
27 potential Important Agricultural Lands on Oahu; and
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29 WHEREAS, extensive county planning and coordination are
30 necessary to implement laws designed to protect agricultural
31 lands and support agricultural viability; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
35 that the City and County of Honolulu is urged to expend monies
36 set aside in its 2010-2011 Executive Operating Budget and
37 Program to the Department of Planning and Permitting for a study
38 to map and determine Important Agricultural Lands on Oahu; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
42 Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the Land Use
43 Commission; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and



- 1 Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the
- 2 City and County of Honolulu.

