

FEB 22 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING SUNDAYS TO BE "EAT LOCAL, BUY LOCAL" DAY IN HAWAII AND
ENCOURAGING FAMILIES, RESTAURANTS, AND GROCERS TO BUY
HAWAII-GROWN FOODS, FLOWERS, AND PRODUCE.

1 WHEREAS, food self-sufficiency is one of the critical
2 components of a sustainable community; and

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4 WHEREAS, the development of a vibrant and expansive
5 agricultural industry is a major step forward in protecting
6 Hawaii's food security and self-sustainability; and

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8 WHEREAS, as the most geographically isolated state in the
9 country, Hawaii, the "island state", is dangerously dependent on
10 imports for its basic food needs, since approximately 85 percent
11 of this need is supplied through imported agricultural products,
12 which is economically unsustainable and makes Hawaii's food
13 supply vulnerable to disruptions that might occur around the
14 world; and

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16 WHEREAS, if a disruption were to occur that halts the
17 importation of food products, it has been estimated that Hawaii
18 has less than five days worth of food supplies on store shelves
19 and in local warehouses; and

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21 WHEREAS, while a key tenet of a strong economy is
22 diversification, since a diversified economy absorbs the impacts
23 from the cycles associated with any particular industry,
24 Hawaii's economic base has often been criticized for being too
25 dependent on the single industry of tourism; and

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27 WHEREAS, although tourism continues to be Hawaii's largest
28 industry, concerns have been raised that local capacity
29 constraints as well as increased competition from emerging
30 destinations worldwide will affect the potential for further



1 growth in the tourism industry, and calls for economic
2 diversification have been renewed; and

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4 WHEREAS, while there has been a demise in large plantation
5 agriculture in Hawaii, the agricultural industry continues to
6 play an important role in the state's economy with average
7 agricultural sales per year in Hawaii amounting to over
8 \$300,000,000, and continued support of this industry will not
9 only promote Hawaii's food security and sustainability but also
10 encourage economic growth and maintain economic stability; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's mild, year-round climate supports a
13 fertile land that sustains over one million acres of farmland
14 that in turn generates many different types of agricultural
15 products, including various types of livestock, such as cattle,
16 chickens, and hogs; supports a variety of crop agriculture, such
17 as sugarcane, pineapple, macadamia nuts, coffee, cacao, ginger,
18 banana, onions, sweet potato, lettuce, melons, numerous other
19 vegetables, various flora, and seed crops; and supports the
20 production of milk, eggs, honey, and chocolate, to name a few of
21 the made-in-Hawaii products; and

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23 WHEREAS, while the quest to achieve 100 percent food self-
24 sufficiency for Hawaii is admirable, the economic reality is
25 that this goal is probably unattainable and that Hawaii will
26 continue to import a large majority of its food supply; and

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28 WHEREAS, although the goal of an entirely food self-
29 sufficient and sustainable community may not be practical,
30 supporting, purchasing, and continuing to produce locally grown
31 foods has several benefits, including keeping money flowing
32 through the local community and helping local family farmers,
33 food producers, and their families and employees; and

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35 WHEREAS, buying locally-produced agricultural products and
36 supporting the growth of the agricultural industry also plays a
37 role in protecting Hawaii's natural environment by reducing the
38 amount of energy used in transporting foods to Hawaii, thus
39 reducing Hawaii's carbon footprint as well as preserving open
40 space for agricultural use; and

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42 WHEREAS, in a time of economic distress for our State, the
43 support of Hawaii-grown products will help keep critical dollars
44 within the State for the benefit of Hawaii; strengthen the



1 State's communities; and provide a boost to local business,
2 which in turn will help the state and local governments through
3 increased revenue streams; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that this body declares
8 each Sunday to be "Eat Local, Buy Local" Day in Hawaii and
9 encourages families, restaurants, and grocers to buy Hawaii-
10 grown foods, flowers, and produce because supporting Hawaii-
11 grown food products will result in higher food quality, improved
12 food safety and security, and provide economic benefits to
13 Hawaii's communities; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
17 each county, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Interim
18 Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
19 Human Resources of the University of Hawaii, Executive Director
20 of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, President of the Hawaii
21 Cattlemen's Council, and Chairperson of the Hawaii Food Industry
22 Association.
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25 *[Signature]* OFFERED BY: *Suzanne Chun Aoki*
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