HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, AND TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE INCENTIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL USES THAT MAY BE SHIFTED TO OFF-PEAK TIMES OR MAY BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMAND RESPONSE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE ELECTRIC GRID.

WHEREAS, expanding the agricultural sector in Hawaii is essential to gaining self-sufficiency and food sustainability in the State; and

WHEREAS, energy is a major cost component for those seeking to enter or sustain a business in the agricultural industry and rising energy costs have adversely impacted business viability and feasibility; and

WHEREAS, properly designed programs and incentives for energy efficiency and conservation in all agricultural activities, especially those engaged in the production of food for local consumption, such as irrigation, water pumping, refrigeration, and cooling may optimize the efficiency of the electric grid and benefit all electricity customers; and

WHEREAS, efficiency and conservation programs and appropriate rate design incentives can help to support the long-term viability and growth of all types of agriculture in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the Public Utilities Commission is urged to direct the Public Benefits Fee Administrator to consider energy efficiency and conservation programs to assist the agricultural sector, and to direct Hawaii's electric utilities to offer incentives for all agricultural activities, especially those engaged in the production of food for local consumption,
that can be shifted to off-peak times or are available to
participate in demand response programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Public
Utilities Commission, Program Director of the Public Benefits
Fee Administrator, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and
the President of each electric utility company operating in
Hawaii.