

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO CONSULT WITH HAWAII SMALL SCALE FARMERS, HAWAII SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS, AND AFFECTED PARTIES ON THE OFFSETTING OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT.

1 WHEREAS, the State supports Hawaii's farmers and seeks to
2 create connections to food security and locally grown products
3 for the health and well-being of communities and economic
4 stability for producers; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes the important role
7 that agriculture, food, and nutrition play in the social and
8 economic well-being of local communities; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State has a responsibility to ensure that
11 communities have access to healthy, nutritious food; and

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13 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2011, the Food Safety Modernization
14 Act was signed into law to better protect public health by
15 strengthening the food system; and

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17 WHEREAS, in January 2013, the Food and Drug Administration
18 published Produce Safety and Preventive Control Rules to
19 implement the Food Safety Modernization Act, in addition to six
20 proposed rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act, all
21 without meaningful consultation with the citizens of Hawaii,
22 particularly Hawaii small scale farmers; and

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24 WHEREAS, many Hawaii small scale farmers are bound by
25 contract to use the land they lease for the purpose of farming
26 or ranching, and they will be particularly vulnerable to costs
27 associated with conforming to the standards outlined in the Food
28 Safety Modernization Act; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Food Safety Modernization Act will have a
31 significant and direct impact on more than ninety per cent of



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1 Hawaii's farmers who generate less than \$500,000 per year in
2 adjusted gross income; and

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4 WHEREAS, many Hawaii farms are at risk if exposed to
5 further financial burdens because farming expenditures,
6 including land, lease costs, water, labor, feed, fertilizer, and
7 energy, are more expensive in Hawaii than in most areas of the
8 continental United States; and

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10 WHEREAS, the required regulatory cost analysis issued by
11 the Food and Drug Administration when drafting and publishing
12 rules to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act does not
13 take into consideration the unique cost burdens applicable to
14 these island farmers; now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
18 that the federal Food and Drug Administration, state Department
19 of Agriculture, and state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands are
20 requested to participate in meaningful consultation with Hawaii
21 small scale farmers, Hawaii small scale producers, and affected
22 parties to find ways to provide financial relief to offset the
23 costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety
24 Modernization Act so that Hawaii's small farmers are able to
25 maintain viable farm operations; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the federal Commissioner of Food
29 and Drugs, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the
30 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and Hawaii's
31 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: Michelle Indani



Dana W. D. G.
James E. Mours



M. R.
Clarence K. Meehan
James W. G.

