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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO  
CONVENE AN AGRICULTURE LABOR TASK FORCE.

1           WHEREAS, the coffee industry is currently experiencing a  
2 significant labor crisis, and the need for harvest labor is  
3 immediate; and  
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5           WHEREAS, an indirect impact of the labor shortage is an  
6 explosion of coffee berry borer populations because unharvested  
7 cherries act as a reservoir for coffee berry borer beetles that  
8 lie dormant while waiting to infest the subsequent crop; and  
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10           WHEREAS, at the Hawaii Agriculture Conference 2017, a panel  
11 discussion among local, state, and federal lawmakers, various  
12 agencies, and key industry stakeholders identified two immediate  
13 needs -- expanding the labor pool and improving availability of  
14 affordable housing for laborers; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the homeless population and at risk veterans are  
17 two demographic groups that could benefit from employment while  
18 helping to alleviate the immediate pressure on agriculture; now,  
19 therefore,  
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21           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
24 Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and  
25 Industrial Relations, is requested to convene an agriculture  
26 labor task force to look for ways to address the immediate  
27 workforce shortage and improve the availability of affordable  
28 housing for laborers, in alignment with the goals of the K-12  
29 agriculture workforce development pipeline initiative; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
2 include:

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- 4 (1) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
5 standing committee whose purview includes agriculture,  
6 or the Chairperson's designee;  
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- 8 (2) The Chairperson of the Senate standing committee whose  
9 purview includes agriculture, or the Chairperson's  
10 designee;  
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- 12 (3) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
13 standing committee whose purview includes labor, or  
14 the Chairperson's designee;  
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- 16 (4) The Chairperson of the Senate standing committee whose  
17 purview includes labor, or the Chairperson's designee;  
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- 19 (5) A representative of the United States Department of  
20 Labor;  
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- 22 (6) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;  
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- 24 (7) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations;  
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- 26 (8) A representative of the University of Hawaii College  
27 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;  
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- 29 (9) A representative of the State Department of Education;  
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- 31 (10) A representative of each county planning department;  
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- 33 (11) A representative of the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
34 Center;  
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- 36 (12) A representative of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council,  
37 Inc.;
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- 39 (13) A representative of the Hawaii Coffee Association;  
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- 41 (14) A representative of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau;  
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1 (15) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;

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3 (16) A labor law specialist invited by the task force  
4 members; and

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6 (17) Others to be determined by the task force members; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
9 select a chairperson from among its members; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
12 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
13 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
14 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
15 2020; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
19 Secretary of Labor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;  
20 Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Superintendent of  
21 Education; Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of  
22 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Director of the  
23 Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of  
24 Honolulu; Director of the Planning Department of the County of  
25 Maui; Director of the Planning Department of the County of  
26 Hawaii; Director of the Planning Department of the County of  
27 Kauai; Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
28 Center; President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.;  
29 President of the Hawaii Coffee Association; President of the  
30 Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and President of the Hawaii Farmers Union  
31 United.

