
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDED DEFINITION OF "AGRICULTURAL HUB" OR "FOOD HUB" AND, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IDENTIFY AREAS IN THE STATE THAT ARE POTENTIALLY SUITABLE TO BECOME AGRICULTURAL HUBS OR FOOD HUBS.

1 WHEREAS, in response to the fading of the sugar and
2 pineapple industries that negatively impacted the State's
3 agricultural industry and resulted in lost jobs, the State
4 established the Agribusiness Development Corporation
5 (Corporation) in 1994; and
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7 WHEREAS, the mission of the Corporation is to acquire, and
8 manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture
9 groups, selected high value lands, water systems, and
10 infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct
11 research into areas that will lead to the development of new
12 crops, markets, and lower production costs; and
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14 WHEREAS, the three main goals of the Corporation are to:

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16 (1) Help with the transition of former plantation lands
17 and water systems to diversify the State's
18 agricultural industry;
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20 (2) Initiate the development and support of agricultural
21 facilities to assist farmers in Hawaii; and
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23 (3) Provide solutions to issues facing the State's
24 agricultural industry; and
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26 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Corporation has taken
27 advantage of its unique position to coordinate federal, state



1 and private resources to maximize agribusiness opportunities;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, the Corporation has developed expertise to handle
5 large tracts of agricultural lands and major irrigation systems
6 and currently has projects on all the main islands of Hawaii;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, one such project is the Whitmore Project, which is
10 a detailed plan to revitalize the State's agricultural industry
11 by bringing farmers and the State together to increase local
12 food production, create jobs, engage in partnerships, and
13 provide workforce housing; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project is a result of the State
16 purchasing over 1,700 acres of the Galbraith Estate and Whitmore
17 Annex in Central Oahu in 2012; and

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19 WHEREAS, included in the Whitmore Project is an
20 agricultural hub intended to be used as a processing and
21 packaging tech park to facilitate the aggregation, storage,
22 processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food
23 products from the agricultural lands owned by the Corporation;
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture is
27 looking for ways to build and strengthen regional and local food
28 systems; and

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30 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture found
31 that farmers, producers, consumers, processors, retailers, and
32 buyers in regional food system developments are struggling to
33 get their products to market quickly and efficiently and need
34 access to trucks, warehouses, processing space, and storage,
35 which require capital investment, infrastructure maintenance,
36 and dedicated oversight; and

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38 WHEREAS, small and mid-sized famers and producers are often
39 unable to afford or manage trucks, warehouses, processing space,
40 and storage themselves; and

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1 WHEREAS, agricultural hubs provide wider access to
2 institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized farmers
3 and producers, and increase access to fresh, healthy foods for
4 consumers, including consumers in underserved areas; and
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6 WHEREAS, the agricultural hub included under the Whitmore
7 Project will greatly assist local farmers and producers; and
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9 WHEREAS, however, the State's Department of Agriculture
10 lacks a definition of "agricultural hub" or "food hub" to enable
11 the development of additional hubs in Hawaii that are similar to
12 the agricultural hub proposed under the Whitmore Project; now,
13 therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of
18 Agriculture is requested to submit a recommended definition of
19 "agricultural hub" or "food hub" to the Legislature no later
20 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
21 of 2019; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture is
24 requested to include under the recommended definition of
25 "agricultural hub" or "food hub" language that reflects that the
26 hub is a centrally located facility with a business management
27 structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing,
28 distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products;
29 and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture, in
32 collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, is
33 requested to identify areas in the State that are potentially
34 suitable to become agricultural hubs or food hubs; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
38 Board of Agriculture and Executive Director of the Agribusiness
39 Development Corporation.

