

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REVITALIZING ECONOMY  
AND AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, for Hawaii to achieve food and energy security,  
2 timely and catalytic actions must be taken to establish solid  
3 aina-connected foundations and provide viable pathways for  
4 growers to succeed in expanding markets; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, catalytic actions are coordinated efforts,  
7 conducted according to the following principles:

- 8  
9 (1) Farming needs to be profitable;  
10  
11 (2) Farming needs to be practical and a vital component of  
12 economic and environmental recovery; and  
13  
14 (3) Farming needs to be a priority in order to achieve  
15 food and energy security; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, restorative agriculture increases local food  
18 production by one hundred per cent, sustainably diversifies the  
19 economy, and culturally and environmentally connects to the  
20 people and eco-system of Hawaii; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture  
23 Leadership (REAL) initiative is a multi-phased, catalytic change  
24 initiative that empowers Hawaii farmers to become  
25 self-sustaining, for-profit businesses with local, nutritional  
26 grass feedstock production and direct access to local and export  
27 off-taker markets; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, this multi-phased, transformative initiative  
30 creates entrepreneurial businesses with industry partners;  
31 provides market connections to attract capital assets to Hawaii;  
32 facilitates access to a sustainable food supply and feedstock



1 for ranching; promotes clean energy, restorative and precision  
2 agriculture, and environmental conservation; and provides jobs  
3 for skilled agricultural technology workers; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the REAL initiative is currently underway and its  
6 proponents are taking necessary actions with community and  
7 industry partners to stabilize Hawaii's small farming businesses  
8 impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;  
9 and  
10

11 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for the completion of the  
12 initiative, and the intended timeline for the initiative is as  
13 follows:  
14

- 15 (1) Immediate efforts, to be completed in a six-month  
16 period, would concentrate on: jump-starting Hawaii's  
17 agricultural economy through cost-effective,  
18 restorative agriculture; stabilizing Hawaii  
19 agriculture by connecting farming and ranching; and  
20 keeping revenue flowing inside, rather than outside,  
21 Hawaii;  
22
- 23 (2) The next phase of efforts, to be completed over a  
24 three-month period, would: coordinate farmers and  
25 ranchers to revitalize fallow and unproductive  
26 agricultural and pastoral lands; facilitate local  
27 production of grass-fed beef; facilitate the export of  
28 products; increase production capacity; secure proper  
29 equipment; and make connections that are necessary to  
30 obtain expert advice from researchers, marketers, and  
31 water and conservation experts; and  
32
- 33 (3) The last phase of efforts, to be completed over a  
34 six-month period, would: replicate restorative  
35 agriculture in farming and ranching communities and  
36 groups across the State; provide technical assistance  
37 in building communities of practice; and provide  
38 workforce training in agricultural technology,  
39 sciences, marketing, and brand thought leadership; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, the timing and urgency of the initiative requires  
42 immediate attention, action, and collaboration from governmental



1 regulatory agencies, landowners, and industry participants, so  
2 that the initiative may;

- 3
- 4 (1) Singularly or collectively obtain from the Department  
5 of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Agriculture,  
6 Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the  
7 University of Hawaii a fifty-year lease on certain  
8 land for purposes of production infrastructure  
9 expansion, including an equipment maintenance center,  
10 training hub, and grass feedstock processing center;  
11
- 12 (2) Establish a grow hub structure and operations, which  
13 would include a learning center from which homestead  
14 farming and ranching businesses would receive  
15 technical assistance and essential wrap-around service  
16 support for marketing, branding, fiscal management and  
17 operational support from federal agencies (including  
18 the United States Small Business Administration);  
19 state agencies (including the Department of Hawaiian  
20 Home Lands; Department of Agriculture; Department of  
21 Land and Natural Resources; Department of Business,  
22 Economic Development, and Tourism; Agribusiness  
23 Development Corporation; and College of Tropical  
24 Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of  
25 Hawaii at Manoa); non-profit organizations (including  
26 the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and Sovereign  
27 Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations);  
28 Kamehameha Schools; and energy, food, and restaurant  
29 industry organizations;  
30
- 31 (3) Establish farmer and rancher grow hub resources to  
32 increase access to local soil and water testing  
33 resources, nutritional trials, researchers, and  
34 entities that are necessary to meet industry timelines  
35 for soil and water resource management and validation  
36 and promotion of Hawaii-sourced products (including  
37 the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of  
38 Agriculture, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
39 Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and  
40 Hawaii Agriculture Research Center); and  
41



- 1 (4) Coordinate and access assistance from state agencies  
2 to support the successful implementation and  
3 diversification of state economic development into  
4 restorative agriculture and the eco-system management  
5 of land, water, and the environment; now, therefore,  
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the  
10 Hawaiian Homes Commission, or the Chairperson's designee, is  
11 requested to convene and serve as the chair of a Revitalizing  
12 Economy and Agriculture Leadership Working Group; and  
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are  
15 requested to serve as members of the Revitalizing Economy and  
16 Agriculture Leadership Working Group:  
17

- 18 (1) The Administrator of the United States Small Business  
19 Administration, or the Administrator's designee;  
20  
21 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the  
22 Chairperson's designee;  
23  
24 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
25 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;  
26  
27 (4) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
28 Tourism, or the Director's designee;  
29  
30 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the  
31 Agribusiness Development Corporation, or the  
32 Chairperson's designee;  
33  
34 (6) The Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative  
35 Extension at the College of Tropical Agriculture and  
36 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
37 or the Dean and Director's designee;  
38  
39 (7) The Mayor of each of the the several counties, or  
40 their respective designees; provided that if any Mayor  
41 declines to be a member of the working group and  
42 declines to appoint a designee to the working group,



1 the Chairperson of the respective County Council or  
2 the Chairperson's designee is requested to serve on  
3 the working group;

4  
5 (8) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha  
6 Schools Bishop Estate, or the Chairperson's designee;

7  
8 (9) The President of the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
9 Center, or the President's Designee;

10  
11 (10) The Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian  
12 Homestead Associations, or the Chairperson's designee;

13  
14 (11) Representatives of energy, food, and restaurant  
15 industry organizations invited by the chair of the  
16 working group; and

17  
18 (12) Other stakeholders who may be invited by the chair of  
19 the working group; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Revitalizing Economy and  
22 Agriculture Leadership Working Group is requested to consider  
23 and develop recommendations regarding the implementation of the  
24 Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership initiative; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
27 to submit its recommendations and any proposed legislation to  
28 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
29 of the Regular Session of 2022; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved  
32 on June 30, 2022; and

33  
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the  
36 United States Small Business Administration; Chairperson of the  
37 Hawaiian Homes Commission; Chairperson of the Board of  
38 Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
39 Resources; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
40 Tourism; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the  
41 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Dean and Director for  
42 Research and Cooperative Extension at the College of Tropical



1 Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at  
2 Manoa; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the  
3 County of Maui; Mayor of the County of Hawaii; Mayor of the  
4 County of Kauai; Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council;  
5 Chairperson of the Maui County Council; Chairperson of the  
6 Hawaii County Council; Chairperson of the Kauai County Council;  
7 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools  
8 Bishop Estate; President of the Hawaii Agriculture Research  
9 Center; and Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian  
10 Homestead Associations.

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OFFERED BY: 

