

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS TO FACILITATE HOMESTEAD AGRICULTURAL
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Hawaiian Home
2 Lands' most recent annual report, dated 2019, there are four
3 hundred twenty-seven existing lease awards for agricultural or
4 pastoral lands on the island of Molokai, and forty-seven
5 existing lease awards for agricultural or pastoral lands on the
6 island of Kauai; and

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8 WHEREAS, there are 1,314 native Hawaiian families on the
9 waitlist for agricultural or pastoral lease awards for the
10 island of Molokai, and the waitlist for agricultural or pastoral
11 lease awards for the island of Kauai consists of 2,585 names;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the foregoing statistics do not include
15 residential lease awards; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead
18 Associations and its Mokuuni leaders are pursuing homestead
19 agricultural demonstration projects to seed successful farming
20 and ranching initiatives on native Hawaiian trust lands managed
21 by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the purpose of the homestead agricultural
24 demonstration project is to assist farmers and ranchers in
25 reaching greater levels of agricultural production at the
26 planting, harvest, and market stages; access initial private
27 capitalization; and obtain technical support; and

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29 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
30 seeks to support relevant, non-invasive agricultural means to
31 farm, harvest, and market agricultural products, which may
32 include food products for human consumption or appropriate grass



1 products targeted at cattle feeding needs within the State or
2 applicable areas; and

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4 WHEREAS, due to economic uncertainty caused by the
5 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the homestead agricultural
6 demonstration project endeavors to mitigate front-end economic
7 risk to participating farmers and ranchers and increase economic
8 opportunity on the back-end sale of products in the marketplace
9 to establish a sustainable small-farm business plan that can be
10 replicated on homesteads on other islands; and

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12 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
13 requires strategic collaboration among the Homestead Community
14 Development Corporation, Hawaiian Lending and Investments (which
15 are both under the control of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian
16 Homestead Associations), Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, and
17 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the
18 University of Hawaii at Manoa to:

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20 (1) Enroll at least four existing Hawaiian home lands farm
21 or ranch lessees on to the homestead agricultural
22 demonstration project;

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24 (2) Establish a low-cost financing or equity investment
25 pool for project participants;

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27 (3) Establish technical agricultural support services to
28 assist project participants;

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30 (4) Establish a learning cohort of farm and ranch lessees
31 and relevant organizations to support full project
32 implementation and publish a demonstration project
33 report of the results, solutions, and challenges of
34 the project; and

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36 (5) Obtain project-implementation assistance from
37 governmental agencies, including the Department of
38 Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Agriculture,
39 the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the
40 counties; and

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1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the homestead agricultural
2 demonstration project is to create homestead-based economic
3 development in livestock ranching and provide supportive paniolo
4 workforce housing rentals; and

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6 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
7 endeavors to create an appropriately-sized, ranching-based
8 economy and jump-start greater participation in ranching by
9 establishing a one hundred-acre cattle and stabling initiative,
10 on Hawaiian home lands that are designated for commercial use,
11 and supporting homestead families in the region; and

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13 WHEREAS, due to the severe lack of affordable housing for
14 young, typically single, paniolo talent, the homestead
15 agricultural demonstration project further seeks to support an
16 agriculture-based economy by developing up to twenty farm and
17 ranch worker rental units consisting of one-bedroom and studio
18 units on three acres of Hawaiian home lands licensed to a
19 homestead association with ready access to roads, water,
20 utilities, and financing; and

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22 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
23 is intended to be replicated on other islands' homesteads; and

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25 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
26 requires strategic collaboration among the Homestead Community
27 Development Corporation, Hawaiian Lending and Investments,
28 Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, and the College of Tropical
29 Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at
30 Manoa to:

- 31
32 (1) Obtain from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands a
33 month-to-month revocable permit on the relevant one
34 hundred acres of Hawaiian home lands for a Hawaiian
35 homestead association (which is a member of the
36 Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations)
37 to complete relevant processes relating to due
38 diligence, feasibility, ranching, and commercial
39 purposes;
40
41 (2) Obtain from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands the
42 approval to revise an existing thirty-five-year



license on ten acres of Hawaiian home lands held by the Hawaiian homestead association for economic purposes, specifically to authorize residential rental units for farm and ranch working housing;

(3) Establish technical livestock ranching support services to assess feasibility and develop a business plan with financial pro forma on the development project components;

(4) Establish a learning cohort of farming and ranching families and relevant organizations to support full project implementation and publish a demonstration project report of the results, solutions, and challenges of the project;

(5) Close on conventional interim construction and long-term take-out financing on the farm and ranch worker housing component; and

(6) Obtain project-implementation assistance from governmental agencies, including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and the counties; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or the Chairperson's designee, is requested to convene and serve as the chair of a Homestead Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are requested to serve as members of the Homestead Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working Group:

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee;



- 1 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
2 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
- 3
- 4 (3) The Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
5 Extension at the College of Tropical Agriculture and
6 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
7 or the Dean and Director's designee;
- 8
- 9 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
10 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, or
11 the Chairperson's designee;
- 12
- 13 (5) The Mayor of each of the counties, or the Mayor's
14 designee;
- 15
- 16 (6) The Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian
17 Homestead Associations, or the Chairperson's designee;
- 18
- 19 (7) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Estate
20 of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, or the Chairperson's
21 designee; and
- 22
- 23 (8) Other stakeholders who may be invited by the chair of
24 the working group; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to consider and develop recommendations to facilitate the
28 Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations' homestead
29 agricultural demonstration projects; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
32 to submit its findings and recommendations, including any
33 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
34 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

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

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
41 Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of
42 Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural



