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

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

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

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

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

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



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

3
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

11
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, and the University
17 of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at
18 the to:

- 19
20 (1) Enroll at least four existing Hawaiian home lands farm
21 or ranch lessees on to the homestead agricultural
22 demonstration project;
- 23
24 (2) Establish a low-cost financing or equity investment
25 pool for project participants;
- 26
27 (3) Establish technical agricultural support services to
28 assist project participants;
- 29
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
- 35
36 (5) Obtain project-implementation assistance from
37 governmental agencies, including the Department of
38 Agriculture, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
39 the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the
40 counties; and
- 41



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
5

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
12

13 WHEREAS, due to the severe lack of affordable housing for
14 young, typically single, ranching (paniolo) talent, the
15 homestead agricultural demonstration project further seeks to
16 support an agriculture-based economy by developing up to twenty
17 farm and ranch worker rental units consisting of one-bedroom and
18 studio 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
21

22 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
23 is intended to be replicated on other islands' homesteads; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
26 requires strategic collaboration among the Sovereign Council of
27 Hawaiian Homestead Associations, Homestead Community Development
28 Corporation, Hawaiian Lending and Investments, Kamehameha
29 Schools Bishop Estate, and the University of Hawaii College of
30 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources:
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 Agriculture, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, 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 or their designees are requested to serve as members of the Homestead Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working Group:

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;

(2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;



- 1
- 2 (3) The Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
- 3 Extension at the University of Hawaii College of
- 4 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
- 5
- 6 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
- 7 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation;
- 8
- 9 (5) The Mayor of each of the counties;
- 10
- 11 (6) The Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian
- 12 Homestead Associations;
- 13
- 14 (7) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha
- 15 Schools; and
- 16
- 17 (8) Other stakeholders who may be invited by the chair of
- 18 the working group; and
- 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 21 to consider and develop recommendations to facilitate the
 22 Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations' homestead
 23 agricultural demonstration projects; and

24
 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 26 to submit its findings and recommendations, including any
 27 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 28 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

29
 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
 31 on June 30, 2022; and

32
 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 35 Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes
 36 Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 37 Resources, Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
 38 Extension at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
 39 Agriculture and Human Resources, Chairperson of the Board of
 40 Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
 41 Corporation, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of
 42 Kauai, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and



- 1 County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of
- 2 Hawaiian Homestead Associations, and Chairperson of the Board of
- 3 Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

