
SENATE 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
32 products targeted at cattle feeding needs within the State or
33 applicable areas; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, due to economic uncertainty caused by the
 3 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the homestead agricultural
 4 demonstration project endeavors to mitigate front-end economic
 5 risk to participating farmers and ranchers and increase economic
 6 opportunity on the back-end sale of products in the marketplace
 7 to establish a sustainable small-farm business plan that can be
 8 replicated on homesteads on other islands; and
 9

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

- 17
 18 (1) Enroll at least four existing Hawaiian home lands farm
 19 or ranch lessees on to the homestead agricultural
 20 demonstration project;
 21
 22 (2) Establish a low-cost financing or equity investment
 23 pool for project participants;
 24
 25 (3) Establish technical agricultural support services to
 26 assist project participants;
 27
 28 (4) Establish a learning cohort of farm and ranch lessees
 29 and relevant organizations to support full project
 30 implementation and publish a demonstration project
 31 report of the results, solutions, and challenges of
 32 the project; and
 33
 34 (5) Obtain project-implementation assistance from
 35 governmental agencies, including the Department of
 36 Agriculture, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
 37 the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the
 38 counties; and
 39

40 WHEREAS, the purpose of the homestead agricultural
 41 demonstration project is to create homestead-based economic



1 development in livestock ranching and provide supportive paniolo
2 workforce housing rentals; and
3

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

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

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

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

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

39 (2) Obtain from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands the
40 approval to revise an existing thirty-five year
41 license on ten acres of Hawaiian home lands held by
42 the Hawaiian homestead association for economic



- 1 purposes, specifically to authorize residential rental
- 2 units for farm and ranch working housing;
- 3
- 4 (3) Establish technical livestock ranching support
- 5 services to assess feasibility and develop a business
- 6 plan with financial pro forma on the development
- 7 project components;
- 8
- 9 (4) Establish a learning cohort of farming and ranching
- 10 families and relevant organizations to support full
- 11 project implementation and publish a demonstration
- 12 project report of the results, solutions, and
- 13 challenges of the project;
- 14
- 15 (5) Close on conventional interim construction and long-
- 16 term take-out financing on the farm and ranch worker
- 17 housing component; and
- 18
- 19 (6) Obtain project-implementation assistance from
- 20 governmental agencies, including the Department of
- 21 Agriculture, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
- 22 Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaii
- 23 Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and the
- 24 counties; now, therefore,

25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first

27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,

28 that the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or the

29 Chairperson's designee, is requested to convene and serve as the

30 chair of a Homestead Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working

31 Group; and

32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following or their

34 designees are requested to serve as members of the Homestead

35 Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working Group:

- 36
- 37 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- 38
- 39 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
- 40 Resources;
- 41



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

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

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 25 to submit its findings and recommendations, including any
 26 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 27 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
 30 on June 30, 2022; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 34 Agriculture, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
 35 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Dean and
 36 Director for Research and Cooperative Extension at the
 37 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
 38 Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii
 39 Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Mayor of the County
 40 of Maui, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of
 41 Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of
 42 the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, and



- 1 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Estate of Bernice
- 2 Pauahi Bishop.

