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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DESIGNATE AREAS IN EACH COUNTY FOR DAIRY OPERATIONS AND DEVELOP INCENTIVES TO INCREASE DAIRY OPERATIONS IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, peak milk production in the State was at one  
2 hundred sixty million pounds in 1988, but by 2006, production  
3 declined by more than sixty-four percent to fifty-seven million  
4 pounds; and

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6           WHEREAS, milk production in the State in 2017 was 1.75  
7 million gallons, which equates to just over fifteen million  
8 pounds; and

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10          WHEREAS, the demise of Hawaii's dairies stemmed from the  
11 higher cost of local milk production and loss of market presence  
12 due to competitive, low-cost imported milk from the mainland  
13 United States; and

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15          WHEREAS, local dairy operators face several challenges to  
16 the local production of milk, including high costs and  
17 environmental challenges; and

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19          WHEREAS, the State only has two dairies currently operating  
20 and one of those dairies intends to shut down its operations in  
21 spring 2019; and

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23          WHEREAS, the State lacks a local animal feed producer,  
24 which necessitates the importation of feed by local dairy  
25 operators and ranchers; and

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27          WHEREAS, bad weather and mechanical issues on cargo ships  
28 caused milk delivery delays and left some store shelves empty  
29 the first week in March of 2019; and  
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1           WHEREAS, dairy shortages highlight the need for the State  
2 to increase its local food production; and  
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4           WHEREAS, local dairies can help reduce the State's reliance  
5 on imported milk; now, therefore,  
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7           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
8 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
9 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Agriculture  
10 is requested to designate areas in each county for dairy  
11 operations and develop incentives to increase dairy operations  
12 in the State; and  
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14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
15 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
16 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18 the Regular Session of 2020; and  
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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
21 is requested to include in its report to the Legislature:  
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- 23           (1) A map and explanation of areas in each county to be  
24           designated for dairy operations;  
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- 26           (2) Proposed incentives to increase dairy operations to  
27           the State; and  
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- 29           (3) An examination of the effects of the Milk Act on the  
30           decline of Hawaii's dairy industry and related  
31           recommendations that could address potential future  
32           issues; and  
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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
36 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

