
SENATE 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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31 WHEREAS, dairy shortages highlight the need for the State
32 to increase its local food production; and

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1 WHEREAS, local dairies can help reduce the State's reliance
2 on imported milk; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
6 Department of Agriculture is requested to designate areas in
7 each county for dairy operations and develop incentives to
8 increase dairy operations in the State; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
11 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
13 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the Regular Session of 2020; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
17 is requested to include in its report to the Legislature:

- 18 (1) A map and explanation of areas in each county to be
19 designated for dairy operations;
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21 (2) Proposed incentives to increase dairy operations to
22 the State; and
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24 (3) An examination of the effects of the Milk Act on the
25 decline of Hawaii's dairy industry and related
26 recommendations that could address potential future
27 issues; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
32 Board of Agriculture.

