
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A TREE
CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR TREE FARMS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, tree farming can provide many long-term, social,
2 environmental, and economic benefits for the state; and

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4 WHEREAS, forests can mitigate the effects of global
5 warming; and

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7 WHEREAS, tree farms can protect island watersheds, prevent
8 soil erosion, and provide habitats for wildlife; and

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10 WHEREAS, further development of the tree farm industry in
11 Hawaii may reduce the unfavorable practice of cutting down and
12 destroying native trees and forests because wood produced from
13 tree farms may be purchased at retail markets; and

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15 WHEREAS, tree farms are a growing industry in Hawaii,
16 producing \$30,700,000 in revenues in 2001, and has experienced a
17 6.2 percent increase since 1991; and

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19 WHEREAS, expanding the tree farm industry has the potential
20 of:

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22 (1) Increasing lumber processing;

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24 (2) Creating more furniture-making and other wood carpentry
25 jobs; and

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27 (3) Promoting an export product,

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29 which all may contribute to diversifying and strengthening the
30 State's economy; and



1 WHEREAS, a natural disaster may easily destroy decades of
2 physical work, financial investment, and all its associated
3 economic benefits; and
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5 WHEREAS, tree crop insurance may provide economic stability
6 to investors, managers, and employees in the tree farm business;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, although private insurance policies for tree crops
10 are not available, private insurance policies are available for
11 other types of agricultural products, including macadamia nuts,
12 mango trees, tobacco plants, and avocado trees; and
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14 WHEREAS, private insurance policies for tree crops may
15 become an economically viable and feasible option if the
16 financial risk could be spread out among the many farms in
17 Hawaii and on the mainland; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
22 Agriculture (DOA) is requested to collaborate with the United
23 States Department of Agriculture to develop a tree crop
24 insurance program for Hawaii; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOA is requested to submit a
27 written report of its findings and recommendations, including
28 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20
29 days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of
33 Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture;
34 Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture
35 Risk Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
36 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and the
37 President of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association.

