

MAR 13 2007

SENATE 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
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 can reduce the unfavorable practice of cutting down and
12 destroying native trees from forests statewide for wood because
13 wood produced from tree farms could instead be purchased at the
14 retail markets; and
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16 WHEREAS, tree farms are a growing industry in Hawaii that
17 produced \$30,700,000 in revenues in 2001, and has experienced a
18 6.2 per cent increase since 1991; and
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20 WHEREAS, expanding the tree farm industry has the potential
21 of increasing lumber processing, creating more furniture-making
22 and other wood carpentry jobs, and promoting an export product,
23 which all can contribute in diversifying and strengthening the
24 State's economy; and
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26 WHEREAS, a natural disaster can easily destroy decades of
27 physical work, financial investment, and all its associated
28 economic benefits; and
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30 WHEREAS, tree crop insurance can provide economic stability
31 to investors, managers, and employees in the tree farm business,



1 but private insurance policies for tree crops are not available;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, private insurance policies are available, however,
5 for other types of agricultural products, including macadamia
6 nuts, mango trees, tobacco plants, and avocado trees; and

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8 WHEREAS, private insurance policies for tree crops could
9 become an economically viable option and feasible opportunity if
10 the financial risk could be spread out among the many farms in
11 Hawaii and on the mainland; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
16 Agriculture is requested to collaborate with the United States
17 Department of Agriculture to develop a tree crop insurance
18 program for Hawaii; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
21 is requested to submit a written report of its findings and
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
23 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
24 the 2008 Regular Session; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
28 Board of Agriculture; the Secretary of Agriculture, United
29 States Department of Agriculture; Administrator of the United
30 States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency; the
31 President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and the
32 President of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association.

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