

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT
THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's livestock industry faces numerous
2 challenges that create obstacles towards obtaining a strong and
3 diversified livestock industry in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agriculture, in
6 2006, locally produced eggs represented approximately thirty-
7 three per cent of the total eggs sold in the State, and
8 approximately thirty to thirty-five per cent of the milk
9 consumed in the State was locally produced; and
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11 WHEREAS, within the past year, two egg farms and a dairy
12 farm have closed in Hawaii, and a dairy farm and another egg
13 farm are now threatened with closure; and
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15 WHEREAS, one of the challenges the livestock industry faces
16 is the rising cost of livestock feed; and
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18 WHEREAS, due to its location and relative geographic
19 isolation, Hawaii relies heavily on overseas shipping for a
20 majority of its food and products for food production, thus,
21 livestock farmers rely on imported feed from the mainland to
22 satisfy their feed requirements; and
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24 WHEREAS, local poultry farmers, for example, have indicated
25 that the total cost of grain or feed for their livestock amounts
26 to seventy per cent of the cost to produce one dozen eggs, with
27 fifty per cent of that cost attributed to the transportation
28 expenses for the feed; and
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30 WHEREAS, furthermore, with increased United States
31 Department of Agriculture regulations on agricultural products,
32 livestock farmers are forced to buy and use high-protein feed
33 from the mainland to feed their livestock because grains, such
34 as corn, are too expensive to grow locally in Hawaii to satisfy
35 the quantities that are required by livestock farmers; and



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2 WHEREAS, the high transportation costs for feed is a
3 perennial problem for livestock farmers and the cost of
4 importing feed grains from the mainland adds more than \$100 a
5 ton to the expense; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture recognizes that the
8 longevity of Hawaii's livestock industry is threatened due to
9 the high costs of supporting this industry, and has introduced
10 in the Legislature S.B. No. 1307 and H.B. No. 1221 during the
11 2007 Regular Session that creates a livestock revitalization
12 program; and

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14 WHEREAS, if enacted into law, the livestock revitalization
15 program will allow the Department of Agriculture to provide
16 grants to qualified producers to reimburse these producers for a
17 percentage of their feed expenses; and

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19 WHEREAS, however, the livestock revitalization program is a
20 short-term solution to a problem that is in desperate need of a
21 permanent solution to effectively protect the livestock industry
22 in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
26 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish a
27 task force to discuss and develop long-term solutions to
28 effectively protect the livestock industry in Hawaii; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force includes the
31 following members:

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33 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or the
34 Chairperson's designee;
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36 (2) The Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
37 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii or the
38 Dean's designee;
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40 (3) The President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation or
41 the President's designee; and
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1 (4) Members representing the various sectors of Hawaii's
2 livestock industry, including but not limited to
3 dairy, beef, eggs, poultry, and pork; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:
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- 7 (1) Examine the current policies, procedures, and
8 operations of livestock farms in Hawaii;
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- 10 (2) Explore and identify best practices to develop long-
11 term solutions to effectively protect the livestock
12 industry in Hawaii;
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- 14 (3) Explore any other options available to the task force
15 to develop long-term solutions to assist Hawaii's
16 livestock industry; and
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- 18 (4) Establish findings, and identify and recommend
19 solutions to issues involving satisfying livestock
20 feed requirements, including the transportation costs
21 of feed; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
24 submit a written report to the Legislature of the task force's
25 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
26 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
27 the 2008 Regular Session; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Agriculture; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
32 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii; and the President
33 of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.
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