
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE INCENTIVE MEASURES APPROVED FOR IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

1 WHEREAS, the passage of Act 183, Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2005 (Act 183), established the process for identifying
3 important agricultural lands as mandated in article XI, section
4 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Act 183 recognized that it is critical not only to
7 establish policies for and to identify important agricultural
8 lands, but also to provide incentives for agricultural viability
9 in Hawaii, particularly for agricultural enterprises that farm
10 important agricultural lands, and for landowners of important
11 agricultural lands; and

12
13 WHEREAS, these incentives should be designed to promote
14 agricultural viability resulting in the long term retention of
15 important agricultural lands; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Act 183 directed the Department of Agriculture, in
18 consultation with the Department of Business, Economic
19 Development, and Tourism and the Department of Taxation, to
20 facilitate a meeting process with stakeholders in the
21 agricultural industry to develop and implement a comprehensive
22 and integrated framework of incentives and programs that will:

- 23
24 (1) Promote agricultural viability;
- 25
26 (2) Sustain the growth of the agricultural industry in
27 Hawaii; and
- 28
29 (3) Develop the long term use and protection of important
30 agricultural lands for agricultural use in Hawaii
31 including tax policies, agricultural business
32 development, and financing, marketing, and
33 agricultural land use techniques; and
34



1 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Department of Agriculture was
2 requested to submit a report to the Legislature of stakeholder
3 findings and recommendations before the 2007 Regular Session;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, Act 183 also provided a process to map important
7 agricultural lands by the counties, which is then followed by
8 the designation of important agricultural lands, as mapped by
9 the counties, three years after the enactment of legislation
10 establishing incentives and protections for important
11 agricultural lands and agricultural viability; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Act 183 further recognized that, in addition to
14 state incentives programs, it was equally important to include
15 county incentive programs to provide a comprehensive set of
16 incentives for agriculture to be viable on important
17 agricultural lands; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Legislature has deliberated on several of the
20 incentive measures submitted by the Department of Agriculture,
21 the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Land Use Research
22 Foundation, and several other stakeholders in the agricultural
23 industry; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the Legislature, in consultation with stakeholders
26 in the agricultural industry, will need to evaluate whether the
27 incentive measures approved for important agricultural lands are
28 adequate to begin the designation process; now, therefore,

29
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
32 that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
33 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and
34 the Department of Taxation, is requested to reconvene a working
35 group of stakeholders in the agricultural industry in Hawaii;
36 and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
39 is requested to reconvene a working group that consists of the
40 following members:

- 41
42 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
43 Chairperson's designee;



- 1 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
- 2 Tourism, or the Director's designee;
- 3
- 4 (3) The Director of Taxation, or the Director's designee;
- 5
- 6 (4) The Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
- 7 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, or the
- 8 Dean's designee;
- 9
- 10 (5) The President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, or
- 11 the President's designee;
- 12
- 13 (6) The Executive Director of the Land Use Research
- 14 Foundation of Hawaii, or the Executive Director's
- 15 designee;
- 16
- 17 (7) The Director of the Office of Economic Development
- 18 from each county, or the Director's designee; and
- 19
- 20 (8) Agricultural farmers and landowners; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 23 to:

- 24
- 25 (1) Perform an economic analysis of the incentive measures
- 26 passed by the Legislature since the enactment of Act
- 27 183, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005;
- 28
- 29 (2) Recommend the minimum criteria for determining the
- 30 "enactment of legislation establishing incentives and
- 31 protection" pursuant to Act 183; and
- 32
- 33 (3) Continue to discuss and develop additional incentive
- 34 measures and programs, including incentives from
- 35 non-governmental entities, for important agricultural
- 36 lands to meet the minimum criteria for the enactment
- 37 of legislation to establish incentives and protections;
- 38 and
- 39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
 41 in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic
 42 Development, and Tourism and Department of Taxation, is
 43 requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and
 44 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the 2008 Regular Session; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Chairperson of
6 the Board of Agriculture; the Director of Business, Economic
7 Development, and Tourism; the Director of Taxation; the Dean of
8 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
9 University of Hawaii; the Mayor, City and County of Honolulu;
10 the Mayor, County of Hawaii; the Mayor, County of Maui; the
11 Mayor, County of Kauai; the Director of the Economic Development
12 Office, City and County of Honolulu; the Director of the
13 Department of Research and Development, County of Hawaii; the
14 Director of the Office of Economic Development, County of Maui;
15 the Director of the Office of Economic Development, County of
16 Kauai; the President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and
17 the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of
18 Hawaii.

