

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AGRICULTURAL DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE CENTER, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF THE INFORMATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, AND ASSESS WHETHER THE HAWAII AGRICULTURE INFORMATION CENTER CAN MEET THOSE NEEDS.

1 WHEREAS, information regarding crop production in relation  
2 to land use is not very accessible; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, growers must quickly shift products to match  
5 marketing opportunities, which requires knowledge of production  
6 limitations due to elevation, temperature, pest incidence, and  
7 soils; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, more attention is needed to address the issue of  
10 inadvertent contamination of coastal waters as a result of  
11 agricultural operations and livestock operations and their  
12 manure management, and to address continuing concerns about  
13 nitrate contents in the Pearl Harbor aquifer and watershed; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, nutrients are accumulating in and leading to the  
16 degradation of Oahu's coastal and other waters, and improved  
17 understanding and management of fertilizers and nitrogen-based  
18 amendments such as manures, composts, and the organic  
19 fertilizers required by organic farmers, are needed; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the extent of arsenic and other organic  
22 contaminants is not well-known; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, technicians from the Natural Resources  
25 Conservation Service (NRCS) are lacking an online tool to make  
26 phosphorus and nitrogen runoff risk evaluations; and  
27



1 WHEREAS, improvements in the Fertility Advice and  
2 Consulting System (FACS) of the University of Hawaii  
3 Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center (UH-ADSC), including  
4 joint NRCS and University of Hawaii-developed software, are  
5 needed to provide clients with alternatives to resolve these  
6 issues; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Agriculture Information Center (HAIC),  
9 a proposed computer system involving a comprehensive data  
10 warehouse and decision-aid online applications, is intended to  
11 provide site-specific real time information on personalized web  
12 portals to aid decision making with respect to agricultural  
13 activities for Hawaii food producers, homeowners, agriculture  
14 extension agents, researchers and scientists of the University  
15 of Hawaii, and technicians of NRCS; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the primary databases in HAIC will include soil,  
18 crop, weather, water body, fertilizer, animal feeding,  
19 irrigation, and conservation practices, and the integrated  
20 decision-aid applications of HAIC will include  
21 nitrogen/phosphorous/potassium/calcium management, pesticide  
22 control, nutrient runoff risk analysis, economic analysis, crop  
23 scheduling, and farmers' daily plans; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the overall goals of HAIC will be to:

- 26  
27 (1) Encourage agricultural growth and expansion in Hawaii;  
28  
29 (2) Help to ensure the economic viability of agricultural  
30 operations in Hawaii; and  
31  
32 (3) Improve environmental protections and mitigate  
33 environmental damage that occurs as a result of  
34 agricultural operations;  
35

36 now, therefore,  
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the UH-ADSC, in  
41 consultation with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
42 Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR), NRCS, and any other  
43 appropriate public or private entities, is requested to survey  
44 the information needs of Hawaii's agricultural industry and



1 assess whether HAIC can meet the information needs of Hawaii's  
2 agricultural industry; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UH-ADSC, with input from NRCS,  
5 UH-CTAHR, and any other appropriate public or private entities,  
6 is requested to submit a written report to the Legislature of  
7 its findings and recommendations, including any appropriate  
8 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
9 the 2009 Regular Session; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of NRCS,  
13 President of University of Hawaii, Director of UH-ADSC, Dean of  
14 UH-CTAHR, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau  
15 Federation.

