HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO PARTNER WITH THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES TO ITS BENEFICIARIES TO ENCOURAGE SUCCESSFUL FARMING ON AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL LANDS LANDS.

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Agricultural Task Force was formed in 1998 to encourage successful farming on agricultural and pastoral lands since only five percent of homesteaders at the time were using the land for those purposes; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 study by the Center for Native Hawaiian Advancement revealed that although there are nearly 20,000 applicants for agricultural and pastoral leases on homestead land, fewer than 1,600 have actually been awarded leases; and

WHEREAS, to increase the amount of agricultural and pastoral leases awarded, the task force made several recommendations to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, including increasing support services, value-added products, and marketing support; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has proven that partnerships with other entities, such as the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, can be beneficial in expanding its educational and technical assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, augmenting support services by partnering with other entities, such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, would increase the number of successful homesteaders in agricultural enterprises by increasing their knowledge and training in commercial and subsistence agricultural production; best-management practices; and marketing, financial, and business skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is requested to partner with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate entities to provide support services to its beneficiaries to encourage successful farming on agricultural and pastoral lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.