MAR 1 6 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED PLAN TO ASSIST HOME GARDENERS WITH FORMING COMMUNITY-BASED, HOME ORGANIC PRODUCE COOPERATIVES.

WHEREAS, home gardeners who grow fruits and vegetables for their own consumption often have a surplus of these fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, if home gardeners could be organized into cooperatives, their surpluses could be sold in local markets and the State would be less dependent on imported produce; and

WHEREAS, home organic produce cooperatives could be a means to:

- (1)Educate home gardeners about growing organic produce;
- (2) Assist home gardeners with marketing their produce; and
- (3) Advise home gardeners on any other pertinent matters relating to the marketing and selling of surplus organic produce to the general public; and

WHEREAS, the State supports the development of the organic industry as a viable agricultural practice that promotes both the recycling of bioregional resources and local production and consumption for a self-reliant industry; and

WHEREAS, the Makiki Neighborhood Board of the City and County of Honolulu supports the establishment of home organic produce cooperatives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, through its Cooperative Extension Service and with assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, is

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urged to develop a coordinated plan to assist home gardeners with forming community-based, home organic produce cooperatives; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is requested to submit a progress report on developing the plan no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of Hawaii, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and the Chairperson of the Makiki Neighborhood Board.

OFFERED BY: and Jekung