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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL TO REVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBDIVISION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism gathers, analyzes, and provides information to the Governor to assist in the formulation of state policies and strategies; and

WHEREAS, the main objective of the Office of Environmental Quality Control within the Department of Health is implementing chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes a system of environmental review to ensure that environmental concerns are considered before certain actions are implemented; and

WHEREAS, it seems that environmental assessments are required for the subdivision of certain agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, requiring environmental assessments for the subdivision of certain agricultural lands may be unnecessarily burdensome for owners or lessees of certain agricultural lands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning in consultation with the the Office of Environmental Quality Control is requested to study the potential negative impacts of environmental assessment requirements for the subdivision of agricultural lands; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Planning; and the Director of Health.

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