
SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE WHITMORE PROJECT'S MISSION TO REVITALIZE
HAWAII'S LOCAL AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND REQUESTING THE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO CONTINUE ITS
EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE LAND AND PROVIDE LOCAL FARMERS WITH
LONG-TERM LEASES.

1 WHEREAS, the downsizing of sugar and pineapple production
2 in the agriculture industry in Hawaii has resulted in local
3 people losing their jobs and active farmlands becoming inactive;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Statewide Agricultural Land
7 Use Baseline, it was reported that Hawaii's active agricultural
8 land has decreased from 350,830 acres in 1980 to 151,830 acres
9 in 2015, and that it is highly unlikely Hawaii will ever see
10 that amount of land in active crop production again; and
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12 WHEREAS, although the cessation of sugar and pineapple
13 production has had significant impacts on communities that were
14 once dependent on plantation economies, it also presents the
15 opportunity to transition towards a diversified agricultural
16 model; and
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18 WHEREAS, a twenty-first century agriculture industry must
19 be based on scale and innovation to create highly-skilled
20 agricultural jobs that are not representative of traditional
21 farming; and
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23 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States
24 Department of Agriculture and Purdue University, the United
25 States expects an annual average of nearly sixty thousand
26 highly-skilled job openings in agriculture and agriculture-
27 related industries; and
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29 WHEREAS, the State established the Agribusiness Development
30 Corporation in 1994 to facilitate the transition of former
31 plantation land and water systems to diversify Hawaii's



1 agricultural industry, initiate the development and support of
2 agricultural facilities to assist local farmers, and provide
3 solutions to issues facing the agricultural industry; and
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5 WHEREAS, purchasing agricultural land and adding to the
6 State's inventory protects agricultural land and also provides
7 local farmers with long-term leases; and
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9 WHEREAS, in 2012, the State purchased over seventeen
10 hundred acres of agricultural land from the Galbraith Estate
11 through a coordinated effort of the State, City and County of
12 Honolulu, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, United States Army, and
13 D.R. Horton; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation received
16 twelve hundred acres of agricultural land and has dedicated this
17 land to the Whitmore Project, which is a detailed plan to
18 revitalize the local agricultural industry; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project provides the following
21 solutions:
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- 23 (1) Long-term lease options on state land;
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- 25 (2) Enhanced use leases;
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- 27 (3) Decreased cost and time of transportation due to
28 clustered services;
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- 30 (4) Increased scale and diversity of products;
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- 32 (5) Co-working opportunities to leverage the high cost of
33 equipment and supplies;
- 34
- 35 (6) Converting idle and arable land into active land to
36 achieve scale and diversity of product;
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- 38 (7) State and county tax incentives; and
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- 40 (8) Partnership opportunities; and
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1 WHEREAS, placing more farmers on state land with long-term
2 leases is crucial to increasing local food production, self-
3 sufficiency, and food security; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State should continue to purchase agricultural
6 land to ensure farmers can scale products and make investments
7 into their business; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project will create clusters made up
10 of distribution, processing, support, and production to deliver
11 services and food more efficiently and will create jobs for
12 highly-skilled workers in the ag-tech industry; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Governor's Administration recognizes the
15 importance of self-sufficiency and has shown its commitment to
16 the Whitmore Project by continuing to invest in and acquire
17 agricultural lands and facilities; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
21 that this body expresses its recognition of the Whitmore
22 Project's mission to revitalize Hawaii's local agricultural
23 industry by bringing farmers and the State together to increase
24 local food production, create jobs, engage in partnerships, and
25 provide workforce housing; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agribusiness Development
28 Corporation is requested to continue its efforts to acquire land
29 and provide experienced local farmers with long-term leases; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
33 Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and
34 Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

