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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S HIRING PROCESS.

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture works to support, enhance, promote, and protect Hawaii's agriculture and aquaculture industries; creates and maximizes opportunities for product export; facilitates the development of existing and new agricultural commodities and by-products; and works to prevent the introduction and establishment of plants, animals, and diseases that are detrimental to the State's agricultural sector and the environment; and

WHEREAS, these necessary, vital, and important objectives are carried out by 240 Department of Agriculture employees statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture reported to the Legislature in 2017 that as of November 30, 2016, there existed 92 vacant employee positions; and

WHEREAS, these vacancies have a direct, adverse impact on the Department of Agriculture's ability to carry out its objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has indicated that these positions remain vacant because of obstacles or difficulties in its hiring process; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Agriculture's hiring process for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to include in the audit:

- (1) Evaluations of the hiring process and any related personnel actions at the Department of Agriculture; and
- (2) Recommendations, including when it may be appropriate to expedite the hiring of employees, reduce the number of vacant positions, or eliminate unneeded positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to report the Auditor's findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and Auditor.

OFFERED BY:

ynthi Thelen Bukulum

MAR 1 0 2017