MAR 1 0 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF VERTICAL FARMING OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, vertical farming produces food indoors in vertical stacked layers; and

WHEREAS, vertical farming uses indoor farming techniques and controlled-environment agriculture technology; and

WHEREAS, vertical farming has great potential to increase crop yields in limited land space; and

WHEREAS, current agricultural practices in Hawaii utilize traditional surface farming, which may be inefficient considering Hawaii's limited land space and high land costs; and

WHEREAS, other countries such as Singapore have been successful with vertical farming operations, which balances urban development and food sustenance necessities; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii must entertain alternatives to its current agricultural operations by bringing in fresh ideas in connection with utilizing the 'āina and practicing responsible land stewardship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, is requested to study the economic impacts of vertical farming operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study focus on food production, potential job creation opportunities, and identifying areas in urban settings that can be used for vertical farming; and

S.R. NO. 72

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

