
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
EVALUATE THE AMOUNT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE THAT IS
SOLELY USED FOR SUBSISTENCE FARMING.

1 WHEREAS, "subsistence farming" means a farming operation
2 primarily for direct personal or family consumption, and not for
3 commercial purposes; and
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5 WHEREAS, under section 165-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a
6 "farming operation" means a commercial agricultural,
7 silvicultural, or aquacultural facility or pursuit conducted, in
8 whole or in part, including the care and production of livestock
9 and livestock products, poultry and poultry products, apiary
10 products, and plant and animal production for nonfood uses; the
11 planting, cultivating, harvesting, and processing of crops; and
12 the farming or ranching of any plant or animal species in a
13 controlled salt, brackish, or freshwater environment; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii once provided all the food for a nation of
16 over one million strong, healthy people using subsistence
17 farming; and
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19 WHEREAS, commercial farming has eroded much of Hawaii's
20 best soil and has led to the destruction of Hawaii's forest
21 cover which protected the State's watersheds; and
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23 WHEREAS, commercial farming has created a growing
24 population of poorly or illegally paid farm workers who cannot
25 afford to live in Hawaii and often live under desperate
26 circumstances; and



1 WHEREAS, commercial farming establishments in Hawaii have
2 imported farm workers living in shipping containers with their
3 passports taken away; and
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5 WHEREAS, commercial farms have been poorly monitored by the
6 State, so some of the most powerful and poisonous pesticides
7 have been released and have caused great harm, especially to
8 farm workers, and have also contaminated the State's land and
9 water with these pesticides; and
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11 WHEREAS, commercial dairy farms have dumped their fetid
12 waste into the State's streams and ocean; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands strongly
15 supports subsistence farming; and
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17 WHEREAS, many of our kupuna who have worked as small-scale
18 commercial farmers want to live on the farms that they love and
19 practice subsistence farming; and
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21 WHEREAS, several thousands of farms are considered
22 subsistence farms, and move back and forth on a spectrum of
23 farming activities, from total subsistence farming to a mixture
24 of small-scale commercial farming and subsistence farming; and
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26 WHEREAS, subsistence farming is an incubator for small
27 farmers to expand their skills and enter into the commercial
28 farming industry; and
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30 WHEREAS, reconnecting our keiki to the sources of their
31 food through the farm-to-school gardens will promote healthy
32 eating and subsistence farming; and
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34 WHEREAS, promoting subsistence farming will also raise the
35 productivity of land that is not currently used agriculturally,
36 and is essential in helping Hawaii to meet its current stated
37 goal of doubling its local food production by 2020; and
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39 WHEREAS, the agricultural activities on subsistence farms
40 can raise the property values of fallow or blighted land,
41 increasing property tax revenues; and



1 WHEREAS, subsistence farmers would be paying full water
2 rates instead of discounted agricultural water rates; and

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4 WHEREAS, subsistence farms would not adversely affect
5 Hawaii's laws on important agricultural lands, since subsistence
6 farms can be established on lands not yet designated as
7 important agricultural lands; and

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9 WHEREAS, the counties have the ability and authority to
10 regulate tourism operations and overnight accommodations, and
11 when such tourism operations and overnight accommodations are
12 located on subsistence farms, they could stimulate economic
13 growth and provide additional tax revenues; and

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15 WHEREAS, the counties have the ability and authority to
16 regulate nuisances, and subsistence farming would provide only
17 acceptable practices to their communities if properly regulated;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, food from the mainland loses its nutritional value
21 the earlier it is picked and the longer it takes to travel to
22 local grocery store shelves; and

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24 WHEREAS, food produced in foreign countries are still
25 commonly grown with pesticides that have been banned for a long
26 time in the United States (U.S.), and the pesticides still
27 remain in our food; and

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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii aims to ban dangerous pesticides that may
30 not be banned in the rest of the U.S. to provide for the safety
31 of our keiki, and subsistence farms in Hawaii would save the
32 State money that would otherwise be spent trying to regulate
33 these pesticides rather than banning them, including for
34 treating related health problems, educational problems, and
35 other costs; and

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37 WHEREAS, subsistence farms promote affordable food for
38 people in Hawaii who struggle financially with the high cost of
39 living; and



1 WHEREAS, subsistence farms promote Hawaii as a place with
 2 quality, affordable, nutritious, and safe food to tourists
 3 around the world; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 6 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 7 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
 8 Agriculture is requested to conduct a study to evaluate the
 9 amount of agriculture in the State that is solely used for
 10 subsistence farming; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 13 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
 14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 16 the Regular Session of 2019; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 20 Board of Agriculture.
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