

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, TO
CONVENE AN AGRICULTURE LABOR TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the coffee industry is currently experiencing a
2 significant labor crisis, and the need for harvest labor is
3 immediate; and
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5 WHEREAS, an indirect impact of the labor shortage is an
6 explosion of coffee berry borer populations because unharvested
7 cherries act as a reservoir for coffee berry borer beetles that
8 lie dormant while waiting to infest the subsequent crop; and
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10 WHEREAS, at the Hawaii Agriculture Conference 2017, a panel
11 discussion among local, state, and federal lawmakers, various
12 agencies, and key industry stakeholders identified two immediate
13 needs -- expanding the labor pool and improving availability of
14 affordable housing for laborers; and
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16 WHEREAS, the homeless population and at risk veterans are
17 two demographic groups that could benefit from employment while
18 helping to alleviate the immediate pressure on agriculture; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and
25 Industrial Relations, is requested to convene an agriculture
26 labor task force; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
29 include:
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- (1) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives standing committee whose purview includes agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (2) The Chairperson of the Senate standing committee whose purview includes agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (3) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives standing committee whose purview includes labor, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (4) The Chairperson of the Senate standing committee whose purview includes labor, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (5) A representative of the United States Department of Labor;
- (6) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- (7) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations;
- (8) A representative of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
- (9) A representative of the State Department of Education;
- (10) A representative of each county planning department;
- (11) A representative of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center;
- (12) A representative of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.;
- (13) A representative of the Hawaii Coffee Association;
- (14) A representative of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau;
- (15) A representative of the Hawaii Farmers Union United;



(16) A labor law specialist invited by the task force members; and

(17) Others to be determined by the task force members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to select a chairperson from among its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of 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 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of Labor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; Superintendent of Education; Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; Director of the Planning Department of the County of Maui; Director of the Planning Department of the County of Hawaii; Director of the Planning Department of the County of Kauai; Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center; President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; President of the Hawaii Coffee Association; President of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and President of the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

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