

MAR 01 2018

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH THE  
AGRICULTURE 2030 INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND A FARM TO PLATE  
PROGRAM IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, there are historic and recent threats to the  
2 future of agriculture in Hawaii, including the loss of sugar and  
3 pineapple plantations and dairy farms, rising energy and feed  
4 costs, the volatility of commodity markets, mainland and global  
5 competition, and climate change, especially for diversified and  
6 specialty niche farms including organic farm operations; and  
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii spends roughly \$3,000,000,000 on importing  
9 eighty-five to ninety percent of its food annually; and  
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11 WHEREAS, increasing agricultural economic development in  
12 Hawaii will address some of the threats that are affecting the  
13 agriculture sector in the State; and  
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15 WHEREAS, recognizing that the agricultural sector is an  
16 important part of Hawaii's economy and that it is imperative to  
17 create more jobs in the food and farm economy; and  
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19 WHEREAS, improving access to healthy local foods will not  
20 only benefit the State financially but will also benefit the  
21 residents of Hawaii; and  
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23 WHEREAS, biosecurity plays an important role in the food  
24 and farm sectors and that improving biosecurity is a priority of  
25 the State; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture should work toward  
28 strengthening collaboration and links among producers,  
29 processors, and markets; and  
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31 WHEREAS, recognizing that the future of agriculture in  
32 Hawaii is being jeopardized by a variety of factors and that the



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importance of improving the food and farm sector in Hawaii is paramount to economic development of the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and members of the agricultural industry, is requested to establish the agricultural 2030 investment program to increase agricultural economic development through strategic planning and the creation of programs such as a state farm to plate program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program goals of the agricultural 2030 investment program aim to:

- (1) Increase economic development in Hawaii's food and farm sector;
- (2) Create jobs in the food and farm economy;
- (3) Improve access to healthy local foods; and
- (4) Improve biosecurity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to accomplish the goals of the agricultural 2030 investment program, the Department of Agriculture is requested to:

- (1) Create an advisory panel with representatives for the agricultural and business communities;
- (2) Hire or assign staff, or enter into contracts with the University of Hawaii for various tasks such as the collection of data;
- (3) Seek and accept funds from private and public entities; and
- (4) Utilize technical assistance, loans, grants, or other means to advance the goals of the program; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
2 is further requested to establish a farm to plate program to  
3 ensure access to local and healthy food in the State and shall  
4 seek grant funding to support farm to plate direct marketing,  
5 including marketing of farmers' markets, community supported  
6 agriculture operations, and regional community food hubs; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
9 submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty  
10 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019  
11 regarding their strategic plan on the establishment of the  
12 agricultural 2030 investment program; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
16 Board of Agriculture and Director of Business, Economic  
17 Development, and Tourism.  
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OFFERED BY:

