MAR 0 9 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FARMERS IN THE STATE TO EXAMINE ISRAEL'S AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR TECHNIQUES AND IDEAS THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE STATE TO INCREASE THE LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

WHEREAS, Hawaii imports ninety percent of its food and therefore, increasing local food production is essential for the future health and vitality of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has established the goal of doubling local food production by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State has many natural resources and vast agricultural lands that lend themselves to increased food production; and

WHEREAS, despite the State's natural resources and goals for increased local food production, local food production has remained slow to develop over an extended time; and

WHEREAS, Israel, a country where sufficient fresh water supplies are lacking and where only approximately twenty percent of the land is arable, has a highly developed agricultural industry, is a major exporter of fresh produce, and is a world-leader in agricultural technologies; and

WHEREAS, despite its lack of natural resources and generally unfavorable farming conditions, Israel produces approximately ninety-five percent of its own food; and

WHEREAS, Israel is a strong ally of the United States and would therefore be a useful resource for local farmers to look to for ideas for implementing advanced agricultural technologies for the purpose of increasing local food production; now, therefore,

S.C.R. NO. 94

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 this body urges all farmers in the State to examine Israel's agricultural technologies which allow Israel to produce ninety-five percent of its own food despite unfavorable farming conditions, for techniques and ideas that can be implemented in the State to increase local food production; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Department of Agriculture and University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to encourage farmers and students across the State to examine Israel's agricultural technologies for techniques and ideas that can be implemented in the State to increase local food production; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Dean of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

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