

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO DEFINE "AGRICULTURAL HUB" OR "FOOD HUB" AND, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IDENTIFY AREAS IN THE STATE THAT ARE POTENTIALLY SUITABLE TO BECOME AGRICULTURAL HUBS OR FOOD HUBS.

1 WHEREAS, in response to the fading of the sugar and
2 pineapple industries that negatively impacted the State's
3 agricultural industry and resulted in lost jobs, the State
4 established the Agribusiness Development Corporation
5 (Corporation) in 1994; and
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7 WHEREAS, the mission of the Corporation is to acquire, and
8 manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture
9 groups, selected high value lands, water systems, and
10 infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct
11 research into areas that will lead to the development of new
12 crops, markets, and lower production costs; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the three main goals of the Corporation are to:

- 15
16 (1) Help with the transition of former plantation lands
17 and water systems to diversify the State's
18 agricultural industry;
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20 (2) Initiate the development and support of agricultural
21 facilities to assist farmers in Hawaii; and
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23 (3) Provide solutions to issues facing the State's
24 agricultural industry; and
25

26 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Corporation has taken
27 advantage of its unique position to coordinate federal, state
28 and private resources to maximize agribusiness opportunities;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, the Corporation has developed expertise to handle
32 large tracts of agricultural lands and major irrigation systems



1 and currently has projects on all the main islands of Hawaii;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, one such project is the Whitmore Project, which is
5 a detailed plan to revitalize the State's agricultural industry
6 by bringing farmers and the State together to increase local
7 food production, create jobs, engage in partnerships, and
8 provide workforce housing; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Whitmore Project is a result of the State
11 purchasing over 1,700 acres of the Galbraith Estate and Whitmore
12 Annex in Central Oahu in 2012; and
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14 WHEREAS, included in the Whitmore Project is an
15 agricultural hub intended to be used as a processing and
16 packaging tech park to facilitate the aggregation, storage,
17 processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food
18 products from the agricultural lands owned by the Corporation;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture is
22 looking for ways to build and strengthen regional and local food
23 systems; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture found
26 that farmers, producers, consumers, processors, retailers, and
27 buyers in regional food system developments are struggling to
28 get their products to market quickly and efficiently and need
29 access to trucks, warehouses, processing space, and storage,
30 which require capital investment, infrastructure maintenance,
31 and dedicated oversight; and
32

33 WHEREAS, small and mid-sized famers and producers are often
34 unable to afford or manage trucks, warehouses, processing space,
35 and storage themselves; and
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37 WHEREAS, agricultural hubs provide wider access to
38 institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized farmers
39 and producers, and increase access to fresh, healthy foods for
40 consumers, including consumers in underserved areas; and
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1 WHEREAS, the agricultural hub included under the Whitmore
2 Project will greatly assist local farmers and producers; and
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4 WHEREAS, however, the State's Department of Agriculture
5 lacks a definition of "agricultural hub" or "food hub" to enable
6 the development of additional hubs in Hawaii that are similar to
7 the agricultural hub proposed under the Whitmore Project; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
12 that the Board of Agriculture is requested to define
13 "agricultural hub" or "food hub"; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture is
16 requested to include under the definition of "agricultural hub"
17 or "food hub" language that reflects that the hub is a centrally
18 located facility with a business management structure
19 facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,
20 and marketing of locally produced food products; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Agriculture, in
23 collaboration with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, is
24 requested to identify areas in the State that are potentially
25 suitable to become agricultural hubs or food hubs; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
29 Agriculture and Executive Director of the Agribusiness
30 Development Corporation.
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OFFERED BY:

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