
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ENSURE THE INCLUSION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAWS, RULES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of
2 investing in the long-term prosperity of the State's food and
3 farming system, starting with its farmers; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that historical and ongoing
6 dispossession and deterritorialization has greatly impacted
7 Native Hawaiian access to land and other resources such that
8 structural barriers to farming continue to exist for Native
9 Hawaiians; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that immigrant
12 farmers and farmers of color have historically not had equitable
13 access to land and other resources necessary to conduct farming
14 in Hawaii, and that legacy of disadvantage persists; and
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16 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
17 Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017
18 Census of Agriculture, female farmers represent thirty-four
19 percent of all farmers referenced as primary producers in the
20 State, while only twenty-five percent of Hawaii farmers
21 referenced as principal producers are women of color; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature also finds that existing federal
24 agricultural policies have failed to provide sufficient and
25 appropriate technical assistance and financial support,
26 including farmer cooperative creation, for socially
27 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2021, that the Department of Agriculture is urged to ensure



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1 the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in
2 the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of
3 food and agriculture laws, rules, policies, and programs; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
6 is urged to consider the following:
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- 8 (1) The inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and
9 ranchers in urbanized areas, or areas with a
10 population of at least fifty thousand people, in
11 accordance with the United States Census Bureau's use
12 of the term;
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- 14 (2) Consulting with federal, state, and county agencies
15 and departments and all other interested members of
16 the public and private sectors in the State on
17 opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and
18 ranchers and to coordinate state programs;
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- 20 (3) Disseminating information regarding opportunities for
21 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers provided
22 by the United States Department of Agriculture, United
23 States Environmental Protection Agency, United States
24 General Accounting Office, Office of Management and
25 Budget, and other federal agencies;
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- 27 (4) Evaluating boards, committees, commissions, and
28 advisory panels dealing with farming and ranching in
29 the State for opportunities for inclusion of socially
30 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and
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- 32 (5) Compiling and reporting data on who receives subsidies
33 and state land leases, and whether these resources are
34 being allocated to socially disadvantaged farmers; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addressing these concerns,
37 the Department of Agriculture is requested to consider the term
38 "socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers" to mean those who
39 have been subject to prejudice based on their race, ethnicity,
40 gender, or immigrant status because of their identity as members
41 of a group and without regard to their individual qualities; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these groups include but are
2 not limited to the following:

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4 (1) Native Hawaiians;
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6 (2) Pacific Islanders;
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8 (3) African Americans;
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10 (4) Native Americans;
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12 (5) Alaskan Natives;
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14 (6) Hispanics;
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16 (7) Asian Americans; and
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18 (8) Immigrant communities; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
21 is also requested to submit a report to the Governor and the
22 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
23 the Regular Session of 2022 and annually thereafter, on efforts
24 to serve socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and all
25 female farmers and ranchers in the State, along with its
26 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
27 legislation, on how to improve processes to include socially
28 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Chairperson of
32 the Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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