
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 have 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



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



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) Alaska 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 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, on efforts to serve socially
24 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and all female farmers and
25 ranchers in the State, along with its findings and
26 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, on how to
27 improve processes to include socially disadvantaged farmers and
28 ranchers; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the
32 Board of Agriculture.

