
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REVITALIZING ECONOMY
AND AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, for Hawaii to achieve food and energy security,
2 timely and catalytic actions must be taken to establish solid
3 'āina-connected foundations and provide viable pathways for
4 growers to succeed in expanding markets; and
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6 WHEREAS, catalytic actions are coordinated efforts, in
7 which farming needs to be:
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9 (1) A priority to achieve food and energy security;
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11 (2) Practical and a vital component of economic and
12 environmental recovery; and
13

14 (3) Profitable; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture
17 Leadership (REAL) initiative is a multi-phased, catalytic change
18 initiative that empowers Hawaii farmers to become
19 self-sustaining, for-profit businesses with local, nutritional
20 grass feedstock production and direct access to local and export
21 off-taker markets; and
22

23 WHEREAS, this multi-phased, transformative initiative
24 creates entrepreneurial businesses with industry partners;
25 provides market connections to attract capital assets to Hawaii;
26 facilitates access to a sustainable food supply and feedstock
27 for ranching; promotes clean energy, restorative and precision
28 agriculture, and environmental conservation; and provides jobs
29 for skilled agricultural technology workers; and
30

31 WHEREAS, the REAL initiative is composed of members from
32 the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources
33 Conservation Service, the Department of Education, Kamehameha



1 Schools, Future Farmers of America, Hawaii Agriculture Resource
2 Center, Molokai Homestead Farmers, Lanakila Pacific, and North
3 Shore Economic Vitality Partnership; and
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5 WHEREAS, the REAL initiative is currently underway and its
6 proponents are taking necessary actions with community and
7 industry partners to stabilize Hawaii's small farming businesses
8 impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the timing and urgency of the initiative requires
12 immediate attention, action, and collaboration from governmental
13 regulatory agencies, landowners, and industry participants, so
14 that the initiative may:
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16 (1) Singularly or collectively obtain from the Department
17 of Agriculture, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
18 Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the
19 University of Hawaii a fifty-year lease on certain
20 land for purposes of production infrastructure
21 expansion, including an equipment maintenance center,
22 training hub, and grass feedstock processing center;
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24 (2) Establish a grow hub structure and operations, which
25 would include a learning center from which homestead
26 farming and ranching businesses would receive
27 technical assistance and essential wrap-around service
28 support for marketing, branding, fiscal management and
29 operational support from federal agencies (including
30 the United States Small Business Administration);
31 state agencies (including the Department of
32 Agriculture; Agribusiness Development Corporation;
33 Department of Business, Economic Development, and
34 Tourism; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Department
35 of Land and Natural Resources; and the University of
36 Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
37 Resources); non-profit organizations (including the
38 Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and Sovereign
39 Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations); and
40 private organizations, such as Kamehameha Schools and
41 energy, food, and restaurant industry organizations;
42



- 1 (3) Establish farmer and rancher grow hub resources to
2 increase access to local soil and water testing
3 resources, nutritional trials, researchers, and
4 entities that are necessary to meet industry timelines
5 for soil and water resource management and validation
6 and promotion of Hawaii-sourced products (including
7 the Department of Agriculture, Department of Hawaiian
8 Home Lands, University of Hawaii College of Tropical
9 Agriculture and Human Resources, and Hawaii
10 Agriculture Research Center); and
11
- 12 (4) Coordinate and access assistance from state agencies
13 to support the successful implementation and
14 diversification of state economic development into
15 restorative agriculture and the ecosystem management
16 of land, water, and the environment; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
20 that the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or the
21 Chairperson's designee, is requested to convene and serve as the
22 chair of a Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership
23 working group; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals or
26 their designees are requested to serve as members of the
27 Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership working group:
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- 29 (1) The Administrator of the United States Small Business
30 Administration;
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- 32 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
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- 34 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
35 Resources;
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- 37 (4) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
38 Tourism;
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- 40 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
41 Agribusiness Development Corporation;
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- 1 (6) The Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
- 2 Extension at the University of Hawaii College of
- 3 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
- 4
- 5 (7) The Mayor of each of the counties; provided that if
- 6 any Mayor declines to be a member of the working group
- 7 and declines to appoint a designee to the working
- 8 group, the Chairperson of the respective County
- 9 Council or the Chairperson's designee is requested to
- 10 serve on the working group;
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- 12 (8) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha
- 13 Schools;
- 14
- 15 (9) The President of the Hawaii Agriculture Research
- 16 Center;
- 17
- 18 (10) The Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian
- 19 Homestead Associations;
- 20
- 21 (11) Representatives of energy, food, and restaurant
- 22 industry organizations invited by the chair of the
- 23 working group; and
- 24
- 25 (12) Other stakeholders who may be invited by the chair of
- 26 the working group; and

27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Revitalizing Economy and

29 Agriculture Leadership working group is requested to consider

30 and develop recommendations regarding the implementation of the

31 Revitalizing Economy and Agriculture Leadership initiative; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested

34 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,

35 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later

36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session

37 of 2022; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved

40 on June 30, 2022; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the United
3 States Small Business Administration; Chairperson of the Board
4 of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
5 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director of Business,
6 Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the Hawaiian
7 Homes Commission; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
8 Resources; Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative
9 Extension at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
10 Agriculture and Human Resources; Mayor of the City and County of
11 Honolulu; Mayor of the County of Maui; Mayor of the County of
12 Hawaii; Mayor of the County of Kauai; Chairperson of the
13 Honolulu City Council; Chairperson of the Maui County Council;
14 Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council; Chairperson of the
15 Kauai County Council; Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of
16 Kamehameha Schools; President of the Hawaii Agriculture Research
17 Center; and Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian
18 Homestead Associations.

