
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, TO EXAMINE EXISTING LAWS RELATED TO THE SUGAR AND PINEAPPLE INDUSTRIES AND DETERMINE WHETHER UPDATES SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF DIVERSIFIED CROPS.

1 WHEREAS, the downsizing of the sugar and pineapple
2 industries presented an unprecedented opportunity for the
3 conversion of agriculture into a dynamic growth industry; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State is able to use public agricultural lands
6 to enhance the local economy, provide employment opportunities,
7 decrease reliance on imported agricultural products, and provide
8 more sources of locally grown food for residents; and
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10 WHEREAS, a valuable inventory of supporting infrastructure
11 including irrigation systems, roads, drainage systems,
12 processing facilities, workshops, and warehouses that are still
13 largely underutilized was left vacant by the downsizing of the
14 sugar and pineapple industries; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Agricultural Resource Management Division of
17 the Department of Agriculture administers the development and
18 management of land and water, which are two key ingredients
19 essential to sustaining agricultural operations; and
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21 WHEREAS, in recognition of Hawaii's limited land and water
22 resources, the Department of Agriculture is charged with
23 preserving these important resources to ensure the viability of
24 Hawaii's diversified agricultural industry; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture also operates the
27 State's Agricultural Parks Program under the Agricultural
28 Resource Management Division to assist individuals who are
29 interested in leasing land for farming ventures by providing
30 irrigation water and reasonably priced farmland with



1 infrastructure and facilities to encourage competition within
2 the industry; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Agricultural Development Division of the
5 Department of Agriculture is tasked with promoting the economic
6 viability of commercial agriculture in Hawaii by sponsoring
7 joint marketing programs for agricultural products with high
8 revenue growth potentials; facilitating the development and
9 expansion of marketing opportunities for targeted agricultural
10 and processed products; and providing timely, accurate, and
11 useful statistics; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation was
14 established in 1994 to facilitate and provide direction for the
15 transition of Hawaii's agriculture industry from the dominance
16 of sugar and pineapple to one composed of a diversity of crops;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation is tasked
20 with coordinating and administering programs to assist
21 agricultural enterprises to facilitate the transition of
22 agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into
23 other agricultural enterprises, increasing local production of
24 agricultural products for local consumption, reducing the
25 State's reliance on imported agricultural products, and
26 increasing access to farmland and related infrastructure for
27 small local farmers and cooperatives; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2023, that the Department of Agriculture, in
32 consultation with the Agribusiness Development Corporation, is
33 requested to examine existing laws related to the sugar and
34 pineapple industries and determine whether updates should be
35 made for the utilization of diversified crops; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
38 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
39 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
41 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Agriculture and Executive Director of the Agribusiness
4 Development Corporation.

