

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONVENE AN
ADVISORY COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CERTAIN ISSUES TO GUIDE
ACTION AND PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE, AND
FOOD SYSTEMS INDUSTRIES OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the Hawaii Statewide
2 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to increase the
3 quality of life of its residents and create conditions for all
4 people to thrive and fulfil their potential; and

5
6 WHEREAS, one of the eight economic industry clusters
7 identified in the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic
8 Development Strategy is agriculture, aquaculture, and food
9 systems; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic
12 Development Strategy's goal for the State's agriculture,
13 aquaculture, and food systems industries is to grow Hawaii's
14 agricultural and aquacultural sectors (including non-food
15 production) to diversify the economy, build resilient systems,
16 and increase self-sufficiency while protecting Hawaii's natural
17 and cultural resources through various objectives, such as
18 encouraging the purchase of local agricultural products from
19 state and county governments, businesses, visitors and consumers
20 and integrating local agricultural supply chain and
21 infrastructure to increase value chain coordination; and

22
23 WHEREAS, according to section 226-7, Hawaii Revised
24 Statutes, it is the policy of the State to establish a clear
25 direction for Hawaii's agriculture through stakeholder
26 commitment and advocacy to achieve the State's agricultural
27 objectives; and

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29 WHEREAS, as the State moves toward its self-sufficiency and
30 food security goals, the Legislature finds that an advisory
31 commission is necessary to increase communication; provide
32 expert and credible guidance; and engage strategic partnerships
33 between the State's private sectors, community leaders, and
34 relevant stakeholders to support the State's desired increase in



1 exports and local food production, as well as the overarching
2 goal of creating a sustainable local economy; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
6 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish an
7 advisory commission to address certain issues to guide action
8 and progress in the agriculture, aquaculture, and food systems
9 industries of the State; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is
12 requested to meet twice a year, once in June and once in
13 November, to address certain agriculture, aquaculture, and food
14 systems issues including but not limited to:

- 15
16 (1) Competition for same resources;
17
18 (2) Labor issues;
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20 (3) Drought and climate change;
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22 (4) Invasive species;
23
24 (5) Overview of new regulations;
25
26 (6) Water access and development; and
27
28 (7) Waste management; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is also
31 requested to:

- 32
33 (1) Examine and rank the following priority actions of the
34 Hawaii State Comprehensive Economic Development
35 Strategy for the State's agriculture, aquaculture, and
36 food systems industries:
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38 (A) Expand the "Farm to State" Program, government
39 procurement, and institutional purchasing of
40 local agricultural products;
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- 1 (B) Market farm-to-table initiatives that promote
2 local food consumption and reduce food waste with
3 government, businesses, and residents;
4
- 5 (C) Promote agritourism to integrate local
6 agriculture and aquaculture into the visitor
7 experience;
8
- 9 (D) Expand accessibility and affordability programs
10 that increase equitable access to and consumption
11 of fresh and nutritious foods for low-income
12 households;
13
- 14 (E) Support culturally based foods with community
15 biocultural land stewardship and farms;
16
- 17 (F) Identify appropriate export non-food and food
18 crops while prioritizing food production for
19 local consumption;
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- 21 (G) Establish food hubs and cooperatives on all
22 islands to increase access to markets and
23 aggregate services, recognizing that investments
24 utilizing public funds should be done with
25 agricultural operations as the core beneficiary
26 versus operator of these facilities;
27
- 28 (H) Increase cooperative transportation for cost-
29 sharing and coordination of local agricultural
30 products;
31
- 32 (I) Increase local agricultural-related facilities and
33 access, including processing plants,
34 slaughterhouses, commercial kitchens, storage,
35 and distribution; and
36
- 37 (J) Review existing built infrastructure to increase
38 resilience, safety, and equitable access; and
39
- 40 (2) Make detailed recommendations on changes to state and
41 local regulations to encourage the purchase of local
42 agricultural products from state and county



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1 governments, businesses, visitors, and consumers and
2 to integrate local agricultural supply chain and
3 infrastructure to increase value chain coordination;
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5 (3) Review the Department of Agriculture and how it tracks
6 statistics compared to the United States Department of
7 Agriculture;
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9 (4) Review regulations on existing distribution channels,
10 including food trucks, farm roadside stands, farmers
11 markets, food hubs and farm tours, and barriers in
12 regulation and land use that prevent the State from
13 increasing local food in the State's food supply; and
14

15 (5) Evaluate federal initiatives underway that would
16 impact local producers; getting food from farm to
17 table; the purchase of local agricultural products
18 from state and county governments, businesses,
19 visitors, and consumers; and local agricultural supply
20 chains and infrastructure; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Agriculture, who is requested to serve as the chair of the
24 advisory commission, is requested to invite a representative
25 from each of the following segments of agriculture to serve on
26 the advisory commission:
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28 (1) Aquaculture;
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30 (2) Harvested acreage, including field crops and taro;
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32 (3) Vegetables;
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34 (4) Fruits; and
35

36 (5) Fruit and nut trees; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
39 Agriculture may invite other individuals with relevant knowledge
40 or experience to be members of the advisory commission; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member be made subject to
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
3 member's participation in the advisory commission; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
6 is requested to provide administrative support to the advisory
7 commission; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
11 Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

