
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

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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

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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

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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



1 between the State's private sectors, community leaders, and
2 relevant stakeholders to support the State's desired increase in
3 exports and local food production, as well as the overarching
4 goal of creating a sustainable local economy; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
8 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish an
9 advisory commission to address certain issues to guide action
10 and progress in the agriculture, aquaculture, and food systems
11 industries of the State; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is
14 requested to meet quarterly to address certain agriculture,
15 aquaculture, and food systems issues including but not limited
16 to:
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- 18 (1) Competition for same resources;
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- 20 (2) Labor issues;
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- 22 (3) Drought and climate change;
- 23
- 24 (4) Invasive species;
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- 26 (5) Overview of new regulations;
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- 28 (6) Water access and development; and
- 29
- 30 (7) Waste management; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission is also
33 requested to:
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- 35 (1) Examine and rank the following priority actions of the
36 Hawaii State Comprehensive Economic Development
37 Strategy for the State's agriculture, aquaculture, and
38 food systems industries:
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- 40 (A) Expand the "Farm to State" Program, government
41 procurement, and institutional purchasing of
42 local agricultural products;



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



1 agricultural products from state and county
2 governments, businesses, visitors, and consumers and
3 to integrate local agricultural supply chain and
4 infrastructure to increase value chain coordination;

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6 (3) Review the Department of Agriculture and how it tracks
7 statistics compared to the United States Department of
8 Agriculture;

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10 (4) Review regulations on existing distribution channels,
11 including food trucks, farm roadside stands, farmers
12 markets, food hubs and farm tours, and barriers in
13 regulation and land use that prevent the State from
14 increasing local food in the State's food supply; and

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

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
24 Agriculture, who is requested to serve as the chair of the
25 advisory commission, is requested to invite a representative
26 from each of the following segments of agriculture to serve on
27 the advisory commission:

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29 (1) Aquaculture;

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31 (2) Harvested acreage, including field crops and taro;

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33 (3) Vegetables;

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35 (4) Fruits;

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37 (5) Fruit and nut trees;

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39 (6) Livestock;

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41 (7) Nursery and floriculture;

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1 (8) Herbs, such as basil, cilantro, lavender, and
2 turmeric;

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4 (9) Eggs;

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6 (10) Coffee; and

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8 (11) Seed corn; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
11 Agriculture may invite other individuals with relevant knowledge
12 or experience to be members of the advisory commission; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member be made subject to
15 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
16 member's participation in the advisory commission; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
19 is requested to provide administrative support to the advisory
20 commission; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory commission submit
23 its findings and recommendations to the Board of Agriculture;
24 and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
28 Agriculture.

