

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ADVANCE LEGISLATION AND SUPPORT POLICIES THAT SAFEGUARD INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR LIVESTOCK AND OTHER PROPERTY, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS UNDER THEIR EMPLOYMENT OR CARE BY AMENDING THE STATE'S SELF-DEFENSE LAWS TO DEPRIORITIZE THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 WHEREAS, the tragic death in 2024 of local rancher Cranston
2 Duke Pia (Pia) brought national, critical attention to an issue
3 disproportionately affecting agricultural workers; and
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5 WHEREAS, Pia was fatally shot in front of his mother in a
6 confrontation with an intruder, whose dogs were attacking Pia's
7 cattle; and
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9 WHEREAS, this incident was not only a personal tragedy and
10 loss for Pia's family and community but also raised broader
11 questions about the risks agricultural workers face,
12 particularly in remote and isolated locations; and
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14 WHEREAS, this incident also served as a stark reminder of
15 the vulnerabilities inherent in the agricultural sector and
16 ignited debates about the sufficiency of Hawaii's current legal
17 protections for individuals defending their property and lives
18 under similar circumstances; and
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20 WHEREAS, stand your ground laws, which eliminate the duty
21 to retreat before using force in self-defense in certain spaces,
22 have been enacted in twenty-six states; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the intent of King
25 Kamehameha I's version of a stand your ground law is embodied in
26 his Law of the Splintered Paddle, which has been adopted and
27 incorporated into the Hawaii State Constitution; and
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29 WHEREAS, an amendment to the State's stand your ground law
30 is necessary to deter violent trespassing and the commission of
31 crimes on agricultural lands to protect the lives of, and



1 address the unique challenges faced by, agricultural workers;
2 now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
6 that this body is urged to advance legislation and support
7 policies that safeguard individuals in the agricultural
8 community, their families, their livestock and other property,
9 and other individuals under their employment or care by amending
10 the State's self-defense laws to affirm an actor is not
11 obligated to retreat, has the right to stand on the actor's
12 ground, and may justifiably use deadly force in self-protection
13 if the actor is not engaged in criminal activity and is on
14 agricultural land where the actor has a right to be; provided
15 that the actor was not the original aggressor; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House
19 of Representatives, and President of the Senate.
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OFFERED BY:

