

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT 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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1 WHEREAS, an amendment to the State's stand your ground law
2 is necessary to deter violent trespassing and the commission of
3 crimes on agricultural lands to protect the lives of, and
4 address the unique challenges faced by, agricultural workers;
5 now, therefore,

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

