SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENEED TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS TO FACILITATE HOMESTEAD AGRICULTURAL
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Hawaiian Home
Lands' most recent annual report, dated 2019, there are four
hundred twenty-seven existing lease awards for agricultural or
pastoral lands on the island of Molokai, and forty-seven
existing lease awards for agricultural or pastoral lands on the
island of Kauai; and

WHEREAS, there are 1,314 native Hawaiian families on the
waitlist for agricultural or pastoral lease awards for the
island of Molokai, and the waitlist for agricultural or pastoral
lease awards for the island of Kauai consists of 2,585 names; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing statistics do not include
residential lease awards; and

WHEREAS, the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead
Associations and its Mokupuni leaders are pursuing homestead
agricultural demonstration projects to seed successful farming
and ranching initiatives on native Hawaiian trust lands managed
by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the homestead agricultural
demonstration project is to assist farmers and ranchers in
reaching greater levels of agricultural production at the
planting, harvest, and market stages; access initial private
capitalization; and obtain technical support; and

WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project
seeks to support relevant, non-invasive agricultural means to
farm, harvest, and market agricultural products, which may
include food products for human consumption or appropriate grass
products targeted at cattle feeding needs within the State or applicable areas; and

WHEREAS, due to economic uncertainty caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the homestead agricultural demonstration project endeavors to mitigate front-end economic risk to participating farmers and ranchers and increase economic opportunity on the back-end sale of products in the marketplace to establish a sustainable small-farm business plan that can be replicated on homesteads on other islands; and

WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project requires strategic collaboration among the Homestead Community Development Corporation, Hawaiian Lending and Investments (which are both under the control of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations), Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to:

(1) Enroll at least four existing Hawaiian home lands farm or ranch lessees on to the homestead agricultural demonstration project;

(2) Establish a low-cost financing or equity investment pool for project participants;

(3) Establish technical agricultural support services to assist project participants;

(4) Establish a learning cohort of farm and ranch lessees and relevant organizations to support full project implementation and publish a demonstration project report of the results, solutions, and challenges of the project; and

(5) Obtain project-implementation assistance from governmental agencies, including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the counties; and
WHEREAS, the purpose of the homestead agricultural demonstration project is to create homestead-based economic development in livestock ranching and provide supportive paniolo workforce housing rentals; and

WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project endeavors to create an appropriately-sized, ranching-based economy and jump-start greater participation in ranching by establishing a one hundred-acre cattle and stabling initiative, on Hawaiian home lands that are designated for commercial use, and supporting homestead families in the region; and

WHEREAS, due to the severe lack of affordable housing for young, typically single, paniolo talent, the homestead agricultural demonstration project further seeks to support an agriculture-based economy by developing up to twenty farm and ranch worker rental units consisting of one-bedroom and studio units on three acres of Hawaiian home lands licensed to a homestead association with ready access to roads, water, utilities, and financing; and

WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project is intended to be replicated on other islands' homesteads; and

WHEREAS, the homestead agricultural demonstration project requires strategic collaboration among the Homestead Community Development Corporation, Hawaiian Lending and Investments, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to:

(1) Obtain from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands a month-to-month revocable permit on the relevant one hundred acres of Hawaiian home lands for a Hawaiian homestead association (which is a member of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations) to complete relevant processes relating to due diligence, feasibility, ranching, and commercial purposes;

(2) Obtain from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands the approval to revise an existing thirty-five-year...
license on ten acres of Hawaiian home lands held by
the Hawaiian homestead association for economic
purposes, specifically to authorize residential rental
units for farm and ranch working housing;

(3) Establish technical livestock ranching support
services to assess feasibility and develop a business
plan with financial pro forma on the development
project components;

(4) Establish a learning cohort of farming and ranching
families and relevant organizations to support full
project implementation and publish a demonstration
project report of the results, solutions, and
challenges of the project;

(5) Close on conventional interim construction and long-
term take-out financing on the farm and ranch worker
housing component; and

(6) Obtain project-implemention assistance from
governmental agencies, including the Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Agriculture,
the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation,
and the counties; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of the
Hawaiian Homes Commission, or the Chairperson's designee, is
requested to convene and serve as the chair of a Homestead
Agricultural Demonstration Projects Working Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are
requested to serve as members of the Homestead Agricultural
Demonstration Projects Working Group:

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
Chairperson's designee;
(2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;

(3) The Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative Extension at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, or the Dean and Director's designee;

(4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, or the Chairperson's designee;

(5) The Mayor of each of the counties, or the Mayor's designee;

(6) The Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, or the Chairperson's designee;

(7) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, or the Chairperson's designee; and

(8) Other stakeholders who may be invited by the chair of the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to consider and develop recommendations to facilitate the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations' homestead agricultural demonstration projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved on June 30, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Mayor of each of the counties, Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, and the Mayor's designee; and Chairperson of any other entity identified in this Resolution pursuant to the Chair of the Working Group; and
Resources, Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative Extension at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

OFFERED BY: [Signature]