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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Alice L. Lee
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee:

**SUBJECT: 2021 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE: PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT
THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL LAND USE
BASELINE UPDATE (PAF 20-259)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2021 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A STATE BILL TO SUPPORT THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL LAND USE BASELINE UPDATE," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA
Councilmember

paf:Ima:20-259a

Attachment

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-481

Resolution

No. _____

APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2021 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A STATE BILL TO SUPPORT THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL LAND USE BASELINE UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Statewide Agriculture Land Use Baseline Report is intended as a tool to promote a shared understanding of where and what Hawaii farms and ranches and how Hawaii's agriculture has re-emerged following the loss of nearly 300,000 acres of plantation agriculture over the last 35 years; and

WHEREAS, the last Report was produced in 2015 for the Department of Agriculture by the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Spatial Data Analysis and Visualizaiton Lab ("SDAV") and included data from the islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, using a combination of satellite imagery, related geospatial datasets, and statewide farm interviews, they produced a new digital GIS layer to identify commercial agricultural crops grown in the State; and

WHEREAS, the SDAV also produced a report to accompany the digital data that contains a collection of maps and graphics to depict crop production statewide; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the State Legislature acknowledged that "investing in farmland and irrigation infrastructure will bring Hawaii closer to self-sufficiency"; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has set the policy goal of doubling Hawaii's food production by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Act 151 (2019) charged the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor, to establish a strategic plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food production in Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and value-added agricultural products from Hawaii; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, Act 151 (2019) also appropriated \$100,000 to conduct an updated study supporting agricultural development statewide; and

WHEREAS, the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i may be excluded in the upcoming Statewide Agricultural Land Use Baseline study because of insufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i play a significant role in Hawaii's agricultural footprint, and excluding these islands is detrimental to the overall purpose of representing a statewide, inclusive report;

WHEREAS, additional funding of \$100,000 would support a truly Statewide Agricultural Land Use Baseline Update; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That the proposed State bill, attached as Exhibit "A," supporting a Statewide Agricultural Land Use Baseline Update, is approved for inclusion in the 2021 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Association of Counties Executive Committee.

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_____.B. NO._____

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1: The legislature finds that Hawaii has not
2 developed a plan to transition its agriculture industry, once
3 dominated by sugar and pineapple, to an industry that is
4 beneficial for diversified food crops. While diversified
5 agriculture has increased, industry experts estimate that Hawaii
6 imports approximately eighty-five to ninety per cent of the food
7 that it consumes.

8 According to a report issued in October 2012 by the office
9 of planning in cooperation with the department of agriculture,
10 entitled "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency
11 Strategy; A State Strategical/Functional Plan Prepared in
12 Accordance with HRS Chapter 226 Hawaii State Plan and the Hawaii
13 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", replacing just ten
14 per cent of the food that Hawaii currently imports would retain
15 approximately \$313,000,000 in the State and generate more than
16 two thousand three hundred jobs. Investing in farmland and
17 irrigation infrastructure will bring Hawaii closer to self-
18 sufficiency, and local investments will benefit local residents.

1 The legislature further finds that the governor has set the
2 policy goal of doubling Hawaii's food production. However,
3 details on how to achieve this objective have yet to be
4 identified. Issues such as preserving agricultural land,
5 identifying food crops for local production, and improving
6 irrigation and agricultural infrastructure need immediate
7 attention so that doubling food production can become a
8 realistic objective. Implications of the federal FDA Food
9 Safety Modernization Act, which will have significant effects on
10 local agriculture, must also be addressed. This Act sets the
11 goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

12 Act 151 (2019) appropriated \$100,000 for the statewide
13 agricultural land use baseline update. The department of
14 agriculture has determined the funding is insufficient for an
15 actual statewide update and has proceeded without including
16 Kauai and Maui counties. The purpose of this Act is to
17 appropriate an additional \$100,000 to ensure the statewide
18 agricultural land use baseline update is actually a statewide
19 endeavor.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture, in
21 cooperation with the office of the governor, shall establish a
22 strategic plan that identifies benchmarks for increased food

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1 production in Hawaii and increased exports of food crops and
2 value-added agricultural products from Hawaii.

3 (b) The strategic plan shall identify benchmarks that are
4 quantitatively and qualitatively measurable and the metrics to
5 determine progress toward the following statewide goals:

6 (1) Doubling local food production and exports by 2030;
7 (2) Identifying food crops that may be grown locally to
8 replace imports and increase exports of food crops and
9 value-added agricultural products from Hawaii;

10 (3) Identifying lands for:

11 (A) Producing food crops that may be grown locally to
12 replace imports;
13 (B) Raising livestock; and
14 (C) Developing value-added agricultural products;

15 (4) Developing guidance for decisions regarding land
16 acquisition, irrigation, and agricultural
17 infrastructure; and

18 (5) Identifying implications and effects of the federal
19 FDA Food Safety and Modernization Act on local food
20 production and export.

21 (c) The department of agriculture shall submit the
22 strategic plan, including proposed strategies, benchmarks,

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1 metrics, and any proposed legislation, to the legislature no
2 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
3 session of 2022.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the
5 agricultural development and food security special fund the sum
6 of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2021-2022 for the purpose of developing a strategic plan
8 outlining strategies, benchmarks, and metrics to achieve the
9 goal of doubling food production in, and increasing food exports
10 out of the State by 2030.

11 The sum shall be expended by the department of agriculture
12 for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

14

15 INTRODUCED BY: _____

16 Paf:lma:20-259c