

MAR 18 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO AMEND THEIR LAND USE ORDINANCES TO PERMIT
VOLUNTARY ROOFTOP LANDSCAPING AND AGRICULTURE IN URBAN
DISTRICTS.

1 WHEREAS, in certain areas of the State the amount of usable
2 agricultural zoned lands is vanishing due to increased urban
3 sprawl; and
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5 WHEREAS, examples of rooftop landscaping already exist in
6 Honolulu, including the Hawaii State Capitol Building and the
7 Kalanaimoku Building, where the roof over a large area of the
8 parking garage is covered with open fields of grass, flowers,
9 and shrubs; and
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11 WHEREAS, scientific testing has shown that rooftop
12 landscaping helps to reduce the amount of pollutants and dust
13 particles in the air and water; and
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15 WHEREAS, vegetation on city rooftops helps to reduce what
16 is known as the heat island effect by blocking the sun's rays
17 and conserving energy by keeping buildings cooler, thereby
18 reducing the necessity or workload of cooling systems and
19 providing sound insulation; and
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21 WHEREAS, the economy of the State of Hawaii is largely
22 dependent on the visitor industry, the main attraction being the
23 natural beauty of our island state, which should be evident in
24 urban areas as well as forests, parks, and conservation areas;
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, extensive positive examples of rooftop landscaping
28 and agriculture can be found throughout Australia, Canada,
29 China, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and Switzerland, and
30 experimental projects are underway in Portland, Oregon; Chicago,
31 Illinois; and New York City, New York; and
32



S.C.R. NO. 228

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan published in
2 January 2008, at page 40, states as one of the recommended
3 strategic actions regarding environment and natural resources
4 the need to "conserve agricultural, open space and conservation
5 lands and resources," including encouraging "smart growth"
6 concepts in land use and community planning; and
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8 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
9 Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is conducting
10 studies of rooftop landscaping and agriculture, especially
11 involving native species; and
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13 WHEREAS, the allowance and encouragement for rooftop
14 agriculture - through various means including hydroponic farming
15 -- can also provide sustainable agricultural production of fresh
16 vegetables, fruit, herbs, among others; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the counties are urged
21 to amend their land use ordinances to permit voluntary rooftop
22 landscaping and agriculture in urban districts; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors, Council
26 Chairs, and planning agency directors of the County of Hawaii,
27 the City and County of Honolulu, the County of Kauai, and the
28 County of Maui.
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OFFERED BY:

