



RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE FUNDS AND RESOURCES TO COMBAT AGRICULTURAL THEFT.

WHEREAS a healthy agricultural industry benefits Oahu's residents and visitors by adding jobs, diversity, and self-sustainability to Hawaii's economic landscape, complementing tourism by preserving open spaces and scenic views, and providing fresh, nutritional alternatives to imported produce and foodstuffs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the challenges of increasing fuel costs, price competition from imports, and appreciated land values, Hawaii's farmers face the growing problem of theft of produce and equipment which threaten the survival of many local farm operations; and

WHEREAS, estimates of the losses suffered by farmers as a result of agricultural theft range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, individual farmers have reported that their personal investments in fencing, surveillance and other security efforts have not deterred theft, and that greater support from law enforcement and related organizations is necessary to protect the industry; and

WHEREAS, according to statute (HRS Chapter 145, Part II), any person who sells, transports or possesses certain quantities of agricultural products is required by the state to have a certificate of ownership describing the agricultural commodity, the seller, owner, buyer or consignee, the origin and destination of the products; and

WHEREAS, agricultural industry organizations have advocated greater enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, the state department of agriculture does not have enough existing staff to regularly check for agricultural certificates; and

WHEREAS, at the legislature, a recent proposal to deter and prevent agricultural theft by increasing the penalty for criminal trespass in the first degree from a misdemeanor to a class C felony, was not enacted; and

WHEREAS, a problem of this magnitude requires a concerted effort from farmers, businesses, industry organizations and all appropriate state and county agencies; now, therefore,



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the council of the City and County of Honolulu that the mayor is urged to provide the necessary resources to all city programs that strengthen enforcement of laws against agricultural theft and contribute to the efforts to end agricultural theft; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor, the managing director, the prosecuting attorney, and the chief of police.

INTRODUCED BY:
Diana H. DeLeon

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 21 2005

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 05-014

Introduced: 1/21/05 By: DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE FUNDS AND RESOURCES TO COMBAT AGRICULTURAL THEFT.

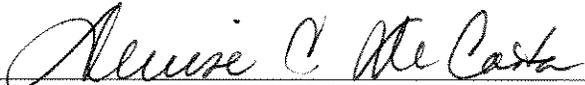
Links: [RES. 05-014](#)

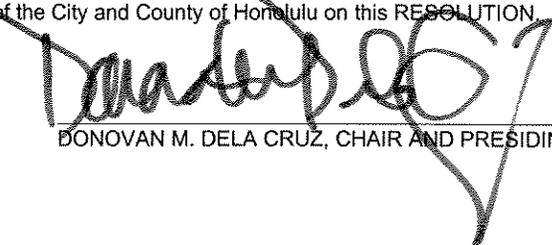
Public Safety 2/9/05 CR-54 – Resolution reported out of committee for adoption.

Council 2/23/05 Resolution and CR-54 adopted.

Apo..... Y Cachola Y Dela Cruz... Y Djou Y Garcia Y
Kobayashi ... Y Marshall..... Y Okino..... Y Tam Y

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


DENISE C. DE COSTA, CITY CLERK


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER