

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOLTZE, Neuman, Costello, Thompson, Fairclough, Muñoz, Lynn, Kerttula, Pruitt, Dick, Tammie Wilson, Keller, Johnson, Herron, Foster, Austerman, Chenault, Peggy Wilson, Tuck, Gara, Hawker, Johansen, Petersen, Joule, Saddler, Seaton, Doogan, Guttenberg, Feige

Introduced: 2/17/12

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the establishment and operation of a state food resource development
2 working group.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS agricultural and fisheries industries have played a vital role in the history
5 of Alaska, while it was a territory and after it became a state; and

6 WHEREAS agricultural and fisheries industries are critical to the state's economic
7 future; and

8 WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture reported in 2007 that Alaska
9 residents spend \$1,500,000,000 annually on food and estimated that less than five percent of
10 the food consumed in the state is produced locally; and

11 WHEREAS a higher percentage of consumer spending in the state on local food
12 products would help drive economic development in the state's agricultural and fisheries
13 industries; and

14 WHEREAS access to fresh and nutritious local food would promote and contribute to
15 healthier lifestyles for the residents of the state; and

16 WHEREAS increasing local food production and consumption of local wild seafood

1 and farm products would improve the health of state residents, increase food security,
2 strengthen the local economy, and encourage community development; and

3 **WHEREAS** the state's food supply is vulnerable and depends on a food distribution
4 system that has been disrupted in the past and is likely to be disrupted in the future; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Governor has made economic development and food security critical
6 priorities for the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Food Policy Council is an independent organization that was
8 established to provide recommendations for improving access to healthy, affordable, and
9 culturally appropriate foods for all residents of the state;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
11 Governor to establish a state food resource development working group to work with the
12 Alaska Food Policy Council to identify resources and set policies to build a strong,
13 sustainable healthy food system in the state; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
15 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature supports the establishment of a
16 collaborative relationship among state agencies, the state food resource development working
17 group, and the Alaska Food Policy Council to enhance the access, availability, affordability,
18 and quality of food for all state residents; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
20 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state food resource
21 development working group to identify new or expanded economic opportunities for state
22 residents in new food production, food processing, and food distribution businesses; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
24 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature encourages state agencies to
25 participate actively with the state food resource development working group to review
26 existing or proposed programs, policies, and regulations that affect the state's food system and
27 recommend to policymakers methods to improve the coordination and implementation of the
28 programs, policies, and regulations; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
30 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
31 to direct the division of agriculture in the Department of Natural Resources to work with the

1 state food resource development working group to protect, preserve, and develop the state's
2 farm land and agricultural industry; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
4 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
5 to direct the Department of Fish and Game to work with the state food resource development
6 working group to protect, preserve, and develop the state's subsistence, personal use, and
7 commercial fisheries; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
9 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
10 to direct the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to work
11 with the state food resource development working group to develop marketing and
12 promotional programs to enhance and identify new and expanded opportunities for state
13 residents in new food production, food processing, and food distribution businesses; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
15 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
16 to direct the Department of Health and Social Services to work with the state food resource
17 development working group to develop strategies and educational programs to inform state
18 residents of the nutritional value of locally harvested seafood and produce; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
20 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
21 to direct the Department of Education and Early Development to work with the state food
22 resource development working group to develop nutrition programs that include locally
23 produced food in school meals, to develop education programs that highlight state food
24 sources, and to work with the National Future Farmers of America organization, the National
25 4H Council, the Alaska Farm Bureau, the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of
26 Husbandry, and other farming groups to foster future generations of farmers in the state; and
27 be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
29 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
30 to direct the division of homeland security and emergency management in the Department of
31 Military and Veterans' Affairs to work with the state food resource development working

1 group to develop a method to use state food sources as part of the Governor's disaster and
2 emergency preparedness food supply program; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
4 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
5 to direct the Department of Corrections to work with the state food resource development
6 working group to develop a program to use state food sources as part of the Department of
7 Corrections institutional food service programs; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource
9 development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor
10 to direct the state food resource development working group to work with the University of
11 Alaska, which, in 1917, was founded as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines,
12 to research and develop a sustainable supply of locally produced food.