SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR BISHOP

Introduced: 2/11/13
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

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

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

WHEREAS agricultural and fisheries industries have played a vital role in the state since Alaska was a territory; and

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

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

WHEREAS increasing the amount consumers in the state spend on local food products would help drive economic development in the state's agricultural and fisheries industries; and

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

WHEREAS increasing local food production and consumption of local wild seafood

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

WHEREAS the state's food distribution system has been disrupted in the past and remains vulnerable to disruption in the future; and

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature encourages a collaborative relationship among state agencies, the state food resource development working group, and the Alaska Food Policy Council to enhance the access, availability, affordability, and quality of food for residents of the state; and be it

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor

to direct the division of agriculture in the Department of Natural Resources to work with the state food resource development working group to protect, preserve, and develop the state's farmland and agricultural industry; and be it

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor

to direct the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education and Early Development, and the Department of Corrections to work with the state food resource development working group to improve the health of residents of the state by developing nutrition policy standards for congregate meal programs in public facilities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the division of homeland security and emergency management in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to work with the state food resource development working group to develop a method to use state food sources as part of the Governor's disaster and emergency preparedness food supply program; and be it

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the Department of Environmental Conservation to work with the state food resource development working group to enhance the health, safety, welfare, and overall economic and social well-being of residents of the state by instituting programs and adopting regulations that encourage the development of the state's food resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the state food resource development working group to work with nonprofit organizations, including the Rasmuson Foundation and local food banks, to develop and use the state's food resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the state food resource development working group to work with the United States Department of Agriculture to develop programs that encourage the growth and use of the state's food resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Governor establishes a state food resource development working group, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the state food resource development working group to work collaboratively with regional and village corporations organized under 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) to preserve, enhance, and expand the traditional uses of the state's food resources and to encourage the development of locally produced food resources in the corporations' regional communities.