

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

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 state
5 since Alaska was a territory; and

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

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

11 **WHEREAS** increasing the amount consumers in the state spend 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 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 residents of the state, increase food security,
2 strengthen the local economy, and encourage community development; and

3 **WHEREAS** the state's food distribution system has been disrupted in the past and
4 remains vulnerable to disruption 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 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 and
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 encourages a collaborative
16 relationship among state agencies, the state food resource development working group, and
17 the Alaska Food Policy Council to enhance the access, availability, affordability, and quality
18 of food for residents of the state; 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 residents
22 of the state in new food production, food processing, and food distribution businesses; and be
23 it

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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