

Introduced by Senator Cannella

(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, La Malfa, Rubio, and Wolk)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, Olsen, Perea, Valadao,
and Yamada)

February 24, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to the University of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 71, as introduced, Cannella. The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This measure would state the Legislature's support for the programs and initiatives administered by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and would request the United States Department of Agriculture, the Regents of the University of California, and the board of supervisors in each county in the state to continue their support and funding of the division.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The University of California (UC) is a land-grant
2 institution founded in 1868 whose original mandate was, "without
3 excluding other scientific and classical studies and including
4 military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to
5 agriculture and the mechanic arts"; and
6 WHEREAS, The University of California Division of
7 Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCDANR) is a network of
8 researchers and educators dedicated to the creation, development,
9 and application of knowledge to local and statewide problems;
10 and

1 WHEREAS, The UCDANR has a physical presence in 57 of
2 California's 58 counties and provides California residents with
3 local access to UC resources; and

4 WHEREAS, The UC Cooperative Extension is supporting
5 healthy communities by developing science-based strategies whose
6 goals include, but are not limited to, prevention of childhood
7 obesity and diabetes, reducing pesticide usage in agriculture,
8 offering nutrition education to limited-resource families and
9 children, enhancing the safety of our food supply, and protecting
10 state resources from the harmful effects of invasive species; and

11 WHEREAS, The UCDANR Agricultural Experiment Station
12 and the UC Cooperative Extension develop and disseminate
13 innovations that help drive California's \$35 billion agricultural
14 industry; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2011, Master Gardener Program volunteers and
16 4-H volunteers trained by the UCDANR dedicated 1.9 million
17 hours of their time to improving the lives of young people,
18 enhancing their communities, and providing sound research-based
19 information to homeowners and backyard gardeners; and

20 WHEREAS, The UCDANR has sustained substantial funding
21 cuts in recent years; and

22 WHEREAS, The number of UCDANR academic appointments
23 has decreased by 18 percent from 1998 to 2008, inclusive, for
24 advisors, specialists, and Agricultural Experiment Station
25 academics; and

26 WHEREAS, Budgetary constraints, vacant positions, and
27 eliminated positions are requiring individual UC cooperative
28 extensionists to assume responsibility for multiple counties and
29 threatening their ability to maintain traditional service levels; and

30 WHEREAS, California policymakers and the public at large
31 face emerging and regulatory issues for which science-based
32 information will be critical for effective, equitable, and transparent
33 policymaking; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature supports the programs
36 and initiatives administered by the University of California
37 Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the division's
38 focus on public service; and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California requests
40 the United States Department of Agriculture, the Regents of the

1 University of California, and the board of supervisors in each
2 county in the state to continue their support and funding of the
3 University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural
4 Resources; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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