

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 15, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

Introduced by Senator Cannella

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

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, *Ma*, 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 amended, 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,

1 and application of knowledge to local and statewide problems;
2 and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, The UCDANR has sustained substantial funding
23 cuts in recent years; and

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

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

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

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California requests
2 the United States Department of Agriculture, the Regents of the
3 University of California, and the board of supervisors in each
4 county in the state to continue their support and funding of the
5 University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural
6 Resources; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.