

MAR 18 2009

S.C.R. NO. 121

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, COLLEGE OF TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE  
HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP  
OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING  
A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the farm to school program connects schools with  
2 local farms with the objectives of supporting local agriculture,  
3 educating students about food cultivation, mitigating adverse  
4 environmental impacts caused by transporting food across long  
5 distances, and instilling healthy eating habits in students; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the farm to school program contains two major  
8 components: first, students receive education on nutrition, and  
9 are taught the value of buying and eating local food, and  
10 second, local food is served in school cafeterias, giving  
11 students the choice to eat healthier and fresher produce; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the National Farm to School Program reports that  
14 some form of the farm to school program is currently operating  
15 in 8,776 schools in forty different states, and in Hawaii, three  
16 schools participate in the farm to school program, including  
17 Aikahi Elementary, Moanalua Elementary, and Hakipuu learning  
18 center, and one elementary school, Haiku Elementary, buys  
19 produce from local farmers when it is available; and  
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21 WHEREAS, these schools can serve as models for an expansion  
22 of the farm to school program in public schools statewide; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the benefits of serving locally produced food in  
25 school cafeterias have been demonstrated by the success and  
26 growth of the farm to school program in several states,  
27 including California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts,  
28 Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Oregon; and  
29



1 WHEREAS, studies conducted by the Center for Food and  
2 Justice have found that students who ate from the salad bars  
3 provided through the program received an average of fifty-eight  
4 per cent more servings of fruits and vegetables than those  
5 eating hot meals, and the farmers supplying produce gained an  
6 additional \$1,700 in revenues per month on average; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, according to the Sustainable Living Institute of  
9 Maui, Hawaii imports ninety per cent of its food, pays sixty-six  
10 per cent more than the national average for food, and has, at  
11 any given time, only seven days' worth of food in the State; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, statewide implementation of the farm to school  
14 program would substantially expand the market for local farmers  
15 and boost the local farming industry to relieve the State's  
16 dependence on imported food; now, therefore,  
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
21 Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is  
22 requested, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture,  
23 Department of Education, and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation,  
24 to convene a working group of stakeholders to consider the  
25 feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in Hawaii's  
26 public schools statewide; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's assessments  
29 include, but not be limited to:  
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- 31 (1) Student preferences and nutritional requirements;  
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- 33 (2) Infrastructure needs and costs of implementing the  
34 farm to school program statewide;  
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- 36 (3) Financial aspects of implementing the program,  
37 including price differentials between locally produced  
38 and imported products; and  
39
- 40 (4) Rules and potential compliance issues relating to  
41 procurement and the federal school food programs; and  
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii,  
44 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources shall submit  
2009-1556 SCR SMA-1.doc



its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Superintendent of Education, the Dean and Director of the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

OFFERED BY:

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