
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REEXAMINE THE MENU SCHEDULES FOR SCHOOL MEALS TO GIVE LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN EACH MEAL, IN KEEPING WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is a large purchaser
2 of food products for child nutrition programs, including the
3 school breakfast program, national school lunch program,
4 afterschool snack program, and summer food service program; and
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6 WHEREAS, as a large purchaser of food products, the
7 Department of Education can make a significant impact on the
8 local economy by purchasing produce from local farms; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's school children will benefit from the
11 purchase of local produce by consuming fresher, better tasting,
12 and more nutritious food; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 2015, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui convened
15 the Hawaii Farm to School Advisory Group to develop a pathway
16 toward bringing fresh, local food to schools statewide; better
17 understand the existing barriers for food distributors and
18 farmers to respond to the Department of Education solicitations
19 for locally-grown produce, meat, and other food; solicit
20 feedback on solicitation document language, terms, and the
21 solicitation process; identify products currently available to
22 distributors or produced by local farmers that could be
23 incorporated into the Department of Education lunch program; and
24 reinforce the vision that Hawaii exists as a perpetual reminder
25 of finite resources, fertile lands, and communities who are
26 committed to the well-being of their keiki; and
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28 WHEREAS, the procurement of produce from local farms can
29 also serve as a "market primer" by representing a stable source
30 of demand for local farmers, thereby creating the security



1 required for these farmers to invest in the capital necessary to
2 expand production capacity and access additional markets; and
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4 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture sets
5 forth nutritional requirements for school meals; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Education creates menus for
8 school meals with specific food items that schools must all
9 produce; and
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11 WHEREAS, while creating this type of strict menu is
12 beneficial when ordering food in bulk, if the specific product
13 is not produced or manufactured in Hawaii in sufficient and
14 available quantities or, through competitive bids, the costs of
15 a locally produced food are significantly higher, the Department
16 of Education purchases the food from mainland providers; and
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18 WHEREAS, flexibility is needed in the menu schedules to
19 allow local produce suppliers the opportunity to meet the
20 Department of Education's needs; and
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22 WHEREAS, for example, rather than a menu specifying "one
23 cup of broccoli", the menu could require "one cup of fresh
24 vegetables" instead; and
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26 WHEREAS, allowing flexibility in school menus that meet
27 United States Department of Agriculture standards will further
28 promote purchasing from and supporting local farms, while
29 providing schoolchildren with healthy meals; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
33 that the Department of Education is requested to reexamine the
34 menu schedules for school meals to give local produce suppliers
35 the ability to provide locally grown produce in each meal, in
36 keeping with United States Department of Agriculture standards;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
40 requested to look at incorporating more flexible menu
41 requirements that specify food groups, rather than specific
42 foods, especially in fresh produce requirements; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education
4 and Superintendent of Education.

