

MAR 06 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICES  
BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR 'AINA PONO  
REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND/OR SERVICES FROM  
FOOD HUBS.

1           WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the  
2 objectives and policies of the Hawaii State Planning Act to  
3 encourage the purchase and use of Hawaii grown food and food  
4 products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Education serves over  
7 100,000 nutritionally balanced, affordable meals a day to over  
8 eighty-five percent of the youth in Hawaii. The Department's  
9 Food Services Branch supports public schools statewide to ensure  
10 that their meal programs comply with federal and state child  
11 nutrition standards; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, farm-to-school activities can improve students'  
14 physical activity, academic performance, school meal  
15 participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and  
16 other healthy behaviors, thereby reducing the risk of chronic  
17 diseases and other health conditions later in life. Farm-to  
18 school programs also can increase educational opportunities and  
19 support a nutritious school environment; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established  
22 a farm-to-school initiative within the Office of the Lieutenant  
23 Governor to address the issues of supply, demand, procurement,  
24 and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities,  
25 primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to  
26 incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools;  
27 and  
28

29           WHEREAS, the farm-to-school initiative today has been  
30 incorporated into the 'Aina Pono Program, which the Food Services  
31 Branch formed to unite the initiative with its existing health



1 and nutrition education programs, such as ‘Aina Pono Harvest of  
2 the Month, test kitchens, meal programs, menu planning, and  
3 school gardens; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, this farm-to-school initiative, through ‘Aina Pono,  
6 develops affordable and healthy menus using fresh, local foods  
7 for the students attending the Kohala School Complex on the Big  
8 Island and, since 2018, Mililani High, Mililani Uka Elementary,  
9 and Mililani Waena Elementary schools on Oahu; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawaii face many challenges on their  
12 way to achieving economic sustainability; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small to mid-sized farmers  
15 and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage trucks,  
16 warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with  
17 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,  
18 and marketing support; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the  
21 economic development and self-reliance of the State; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, by helping local farmers become or remain  
24 economically sustainable, food hubs increase local farmers'  
25 ability to participate in larger agricultural markets, while  
26 increasing consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and  
27 value-added products; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawaii's rural communities and  
30 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to  
31 work and live in Hawaii; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, increasing the procurement of local agricultural  
34 products for schools promotes local farmers, encourages the  
35 local agriculture industry, and supports government's goal of  
36 doubling local food production and improving food security for  
37 the entire State; now, therefore,  
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
40 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
41 Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State Department Of  
42 Education Food Services Branch through ‘Aina Pono adopt an



# S.C.R. NO. 214

1 addendum to its agreement for 'Aina Pono requiring the  
2 procurement of goods and/or services from food hubs; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
6 Board of Agriculture, Administrator for the State Procurement  
7 Office, Superintendent of the Hawaii Department of Education,  
8 and Director of the Hawaii Department of Education's School Food  
9 Services Branch.  
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11  
12

OFFERED BY:

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