

FEB 22 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR THE 'AINA PONO HAWAI'I STATE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM 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 Hawai'i State Planning Act to  
3 encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i-grown food and food  
4 products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Education serves over one  
7 hundred thousand nutritionally balanced, affordable meals a day  
8 to over eighty-five percent of the youth in Hawai'i. The  
9 Department's School Food Services Branch supports public schools  
10 statewide to ensure that their meal programs comply with federal  
11 and state child 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 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, spearheaded  
22 by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, established a farm-to-  
23 school program within the Department of Agriculture to address  
24 the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of  
25 Hawai'i-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education  
26 facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more  
27 agriculture and nutrition education in schools; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Office of the  
30 Lieutenant Governor rebranded the farm-to-school program into  
31 the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program in 2018 to  
32 unite the Department of Education School Food Services Branch's



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1 existing health and nutrition education programs, such as 'Aina  
2 Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens, meal programs, menu  
3 planning, and school gardens; and  
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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 O'ahu; and  
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11 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawai'i face many challenges on their  
12 way to achieving economic sustainability; and  
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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  
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29 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawai'i's rural communities and  
30 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to  
31 work and live in Hawai'i; and  
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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 Thirty-first  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
41 that the Hawai'i State Department Of Education School Food



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1 Services Branch adopt an addendum to its agreement for the 'Aina  
2 Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program requiring the  
3 procurement of goods and/or services from food hubs; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
7 Agriculture, Administrator for the State Procurement Office,  
8 Superintendent of the Department of Education, and Director of  
9 the School Food Services Branch.

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OFFERED BY:

