
SENATE RESOLUTION

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 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
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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Education serves over one
7 hundred thousand nutritionally balanced, affordable meals per
8 day to over eighty-five percent of the youth in Hawaii; and
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10 WHEREAS, The Department's School Food Services Branch
11 supports public schools statewide to ensure that their meal
12 programs comply with federal and state child nutrition
13 standards; and
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15 WHEREAS, farm-to-school activities can improve students'
16 physical activity, academic performance, school meal
17 participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and
18 other healthy behaviors, thereby reducing the risk of chronic
19 diseases and other health conditions later in life; and
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21 WHEREAS, farm-to school programs also can increase
22 educational opportunities and support a nutritious school
23 environment; and
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25 WHEREAS, Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, spearheaded
26 by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, established a farm-to-
27 school program within the Department of Agriculture to address
28 the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of
29 Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education
30 facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more
31 agriculture and nutrition education in schools; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Office of the
3 Lieutenant Governor rebranded the farm-to-school program into
4 the 'Aina Pono Hawaii state farm to school program in 2018 to
5 unite the Department of Education School Food Services Branch's
6 existing health and nutrition education programs, such as 'Aina
7 Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens, meal programs, menu
8 planning, and school gardens; and
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10 WHEREAS, this farm-to-school initiative, through 'Aina Pono,
11 develops affordable and healthy menus using fresh, local foods
12 for the students attending the Kohala School Complex on the Big
13 Island and, since 2018, Mililani High, Mililani Uka Elementary,
14 and Mililani Waena Elementary schools on Oahu; and
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16 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawaii face many challenges on their
17 way to achieving economic sustainability; and
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19 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small to mid-sized farmers
20 and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage trucks,
21 warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with
22 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,
23 and marketing support; and
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25 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the
26 economic development and self-reliance of the State; and
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28 WHEREAS, by helping local farmers become or remain
29 economically sustainable, food hubs increase local farmers'
30 ability to participate in larger agricultural markets, while
31 increasing consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and
32 value-added products; and
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34 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawaii's rural communities and
35 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to
36 work and live in Hawaii; and
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38 WHEREAS, increasing the procurement of local agricultural
39 products for schools promotes local farmers, encourages the
40 local agriculture industry, and supports government's goal of
41 doubling local food production and improving food security for
42 the entire State; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
4 that the Hawaii State Department Of Education School Food
5 Services Branch is urged to adopt an addendum to its agreement
6 for the 'Aina Pono Hawaii state farm to school program requiring
7 the procurement of goods and services from food hubs; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
10 urged to include food hubs as part of the overall procurement
11 strategy for goods and services related to the 'Aina Pono Hawaii
12 state farm to school program, however, goods and services are
13 not required to be exclusively procured from food hubs; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
17 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board
18 of Agriculture, Administrator for the State Procurement Office,
19 Director of the School Food Services Branch, and Executive
20 Director of the State Charter Commission.

