
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH
TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR 'ĀINA PONO
SUPPORTING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES, OR BOTH FROM
FOOD HUBS.

1 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, amended the
2 objectives and priority guidelines of the Hawai'i State Planning
3 Act to encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i-grown food and
4 food products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Education serves over one
8 hundred thousand nutritionally-balanced, affordable meals a day
9 to over eighty-five percent of youth in Hawai'i; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's School Food Services
12 Branch supports public schools statewide and ensures that its
13 meal programs comply with federal and state child nutrition
14 standards; and
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16 WHEREAS, farm-to-school activities can improve students'
17 physical activity, academic performance, school meal
18 participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and
19 other healthy behaviors, thereby reducing the risk of chronic
20 diseases and other health conditions later in life; and
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22 WHEREAS, farm-to school programs can also increase
23 educational opportunities and promote a school environment
24 filled with nutritious foods; and
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26 WHEREAS, a farm-to-school initiative was established within
27 the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to address issues of
28 supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawai'i-grown



1 foods in state facilities, primarily educational institutions,
2 and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and
3 nutrition education in school curricula; and
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5 WHEREAS, the farm-to-school initiative was later
6 incorporated into 'Āina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School ('Āina
7 Pono), which the School Food Services Branch formed to unite the
8 initiative with the Branch's health and nutrition education
9 programs, such as 'Āina Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens,
10 meal programs, menu planning, and school gardens; and
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12 WHEREAS, 'Āina Pono develops affordable and healthy menus
13 using fresh, local foods for students attending the Kohala
14 School Complex on the island of Hawai'i and, since 2018, Mililani
15 High, Mililani Uka Elementary, and Mililani Waena Elementary
16 schools on O'ahu; and
17

18 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawai'i face many challenges on their
19 way to achieving economic sustainability; and
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21 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small- to mid-sized
22 farmers and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage
23 trucks, warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with
24 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,
25 and marketing support; and
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27 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the
28 State's objectives of economic development and greater self-
29 reliance; and
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31 WHEREAS, by helping local farmers become or remain
32 economically sustainable, food hubs increase local farmers'
33 ability to participate in larger agricultural markets, while
34 expanding consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and
35 value-added products; and
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37 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawai'i's rural communities and
38 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to
39 work and live in Hawai'i; now, therefore,
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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
43 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of



1 Education's School Food Services Branch is urged to adopt an
2 addendum to its agreements for 'Āina Pono supporting the
3 procurement of goods, services, or both from food hubs; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim
7 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of
8 Agriculture, Acting Administrator of the State Procurement
9 Office, and Program Administrator of the Department of
10 Education's School Food Services Branch.
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