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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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 Hawaii-grown  
29 foods in state facilities, primarily educational institutions,  
30 and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and  
31 nutrition education in school curricula; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the farm-to-school initiative was later  
3 incorporated into 'Āina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School ('Āina  
4 Pono), which the School Food Services Branch formed to unite the  
5 initiative with the Branch's health and nutrition education  
6 programs, such as 'Āina Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens,  
7 meal programs, menu planning, and school gardens; and  
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9 WHEREAS, 'Āina Pono develops affordable and healthy menus  
10 using fresh, local foods for students attending the Kohala  
11 School Complex on the island of Hawai'i and, since 2018, Mililani  
12 High, Mililani Uka Elementary, and Mililani Waena Elementary  
13 schools on O'ahu; and  
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15 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawai'i face many challenges on their  
16 way to achieving economic sustainability; and  
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18 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small- to mid-sized  
19 farmers and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage  
20 trucks, warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with  
21 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,  
22 and marketing support; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the  
25 State's objectives of economic development and greater self-  
26 reliance; 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 expanding consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and  
32 value-added products; and  
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34 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawai'i's rural communities and  
35 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to  
36 work and live in Hawai'i; now, therefore,  
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session  
40 of 2022, that the Department of Education's School Food Services  
41 Branch is urged to adopt an addendum to its agreements for 'Āina



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