

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAII' I ASSOCIATION OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO EXPAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA AND 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
PATHWAYS TO AGRICULTURE CAREERS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii imports more than eighty-five percent of
2 its food and is considered highly vulnerable in issues of food
3 security; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State has since recognized this vulnerability
6 and has initiated a major policy pivot towards food and
7 agricultural self-sufficiency to lessen its reliance on imported
8 food products; and
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10 WHEREAS, this transitional undertaking requires serious and
11 careful investment into the local agricultural sector and
12 related trades, particularly through the expansion of education
13 and training opportunities for the next generation of farmers;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, the current lack of young farmers and ranchers
17 with the experience, skills, and ambition required to undertake
18 the rigorous and complex work of farming and ranching as a
19 business poses a significant hurdle to vitalizing local
20 agriculture; and
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22 WHEREAS, Future Farmers of America is a national nonprofit
23 youth and student organization that promotes and supports
24 agricultural education in middle and high school classrooms and
25 currently has thirteen active chapters and over one hundred
26 fifty members in Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, 4-H is national network of youth organizations and
29 is currently delivered by Cooperative Extension, a community of
30 more than one hundred public universities across the nation,
31 which provides children and teens with opportunities to complete
32 hands-on projects in agriculture and other areas; and in Hawaii,
33 Cooperative Extension is a program of the University of Hawaii



1 at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, agriculture education emphasizes and requires
5 skill and knowledge in the areas of science, technology,
6 engineering, mathematics, and the arts and can prepare students
7 for careers in global agriculture, food and fiber production,
8 and management of natural resources systems that offer
9 competitive salaries; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Future Farmers of America and 4-H offer students
12 pathways to careers in Hawaii with companies and agencies that
13 often must resort to searching out-of-state for skilled workers
14 and farmers due to the lack of local agricultural labor; now,
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
19 that the Department of Education and the Hawai'i Association of
20 Independent Schools, in consultation with the University of
21 Hawaii at Manoa Cooperative Extension, are urged to expand the
22 revitalization of the Future Farmers of America and 4-H youth
23 programs and reestablish and strengthen pathways for youth to
24 find careers in agriculture; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
28 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the President of the
29 Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and the Associate
30 Dean and Associate Director for Cooperative Extension at the
31 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
32 Resources.

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35 OFFERED BY:

