## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO ESTABLISH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, FOOD SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION AT LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

WHEREAS, there is a need for more baccalaureate degree programs at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need for agricultural technology and food technology programs in leeward and central Oahu; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the State's farmers are nearing the age of retirement, and without new farmers, food production in the State will decline; and

WHEREAS, to increase the number of new farmers in the State, the State needs agricultural technology and food technology programs that introduce new technologies and products into the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, new technologies will capture the attention of students who have expressed interest in farming through their participation in FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, in the State's public schools; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need for teaching programs in leeward and central Oahu and more teachers who are willing to work in rural areas in schools located in leeward and central Oahu and on the North Shore of Oahu, with the highest need being along the Leeward Coast; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College is accredited to offer two baccalaureate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, new programs at Leeward Community College can become extensions for interested students enrolled in other University of Hawaii Community Colleges who are unable to attend Leeward Community College; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the University of Hawaii Community Colleges are urged to establish baccalaureate degree programs in agricultural technology, food science, and education at Leeward Community College; and

BE IT EURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of the University cf Hawaii System, University of Hawaii Vice President for Community Colleges, and University of Hawaii Leeward Community College Chancellor.

