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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU TO ESTABLISH
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY,
FOOD SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, there is a need for more baccalaureate degree programs at the University of Hawaii West Oahu; 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 the National FFA Organization, 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

WHEREAS, more teachers who are willing to work in rural areas are needed 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 West Oahu is accredited to offer baccalaureate degree programs; and

WHEREAS, new programs at the University of Hawaii West Oahu can become extensions for interested students enrolled at other University of Hawaii campuses where similar programs are not offered; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the House of Representatives concurring, that the University of Hawaii West Oahu is urged to establish baccalaureate degree programs in agricultural technology, food science, and education; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of Hawaii System and Chancellor of the University of Hawaii West Oahu.