
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC
PLAN TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES
IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, food security is a fundamental human right and a
2 critical component of public health and well-being; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge established a goal of
5 increasing access to labor and land resources to support
6 production, processing, distribution, and consumption of local
7 food by 2030, with an overall target of twenty to thirty percent
8 of food consumed in Hawaii being grown locally; and
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10 WHEREAS, the State's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative set
11 forth a target of doubling local food production by 2020; and
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13 WHEREAS, low-income communities in Hawaii face significant
14 challenges in accessing nutritious and affordable food, leading
15 to food insecurity and related health disparities; and
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17 WHEREAS, promoting local food production and enhancing food
18 security in underserved areas can contribute to better health
19 and well-being, economic security, and environmental
20 sustainability; and
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22 WHEREAS, developing a strategic plan to increase food
23 security and food production in low-income communities requires
24 a comprehensive approach that addresses issues related to food
25 access, affordability, land use, agricultural production,
26 education and vocational training programs, and community
27 engagement; and
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29 WHEREAS, strategic planning efforts should involve
30 collaboration among government agencies, community



1 organizations, agricultural stakeholders, and other relevant
2 entities to effectively leverage resources and expertise; and

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4 WHEREAS, implementing targeted strategies tailored to the
5 unique needs and priorities of different communities can
6 maximize the impact of food security initiatives and ensure
7 equitable access to nutritious food for all residents; and

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9 WHEREAS, investing in programs and initiatives that support
10 local food production, such as community gardens, urban farms,
11 farmers' markets, and agricultural education programs, can
12 strengthen food systems and reduce dependence on imported food;
13 now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
17 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
18 Agriculture is requested to develop a strategic plan to
19 strengthen food security for low-income communities in Hawaii;
20 and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested
23 to:

- 24
25 (1) Assess the current status of food security and food
26 production in low-income communities;
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28 (2) Identify barriers and challenges to accessing locally
29 produced and nutritious food in underserved areas;
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31 (3) Develop strategies to expand access to affordable and
32 locally sourced food options;
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34 (4) Consider opportunities for increasing support of local
35 farmers through economic incentives, technical
36 assistance, capacity building programs, and other
37 public investments;
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39 (5) Evaluate the utility of community-based initiatives in
40 addressing food insecurity for low-income areas,
41 including community gardens, urban farms, agricultural
42 education endeavors, and farmers' markets;



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- (6) Analyze ways of expanding access to agricultural education and vocational training programs related to local food production in low-income communities;
- (7) Assess the effectiveness of food security interventions, measurements, and adjustment strategies with regard to stakeholder feedback and preferred outcomes; and
- (8) Determine the resources and funding that may be necessary to implement a strategic plan to enhance food security for low-income communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to submit its strategic plan, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Human Services; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

OFFERED BY: 
MAR - 5 2024