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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A  
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN  
INTERAGENCY FOOD SYSTEMS PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, food security is a critical issue in the State;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, the State imports eight-five percent of its food,  
5 making it vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters; and

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7 WHEREAS, the State should be proactive in making its local  
8 food production more resilient; and

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10 WHEREAS, a sustainable food system is a food system in  
11 which producers, retailers, community members, non-governmental  
12 organizations, and government agencies partner to create a  
13 vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and  
14 sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the  
15 community; and

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17 WHEREAS, the development of a sustainable food system for  
18 the State would support "green" job creation, sustainable  
19 economic development, land stewardship, and climate change  
20 resiliency; and

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22 WHEREAS, a coordinated food systems plan lead by key  
23 stakeholders across the State is critical to develop a  
24 sustainable and equitable food economy; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
28 Session of 2024, that the Department of Agriculture is requested  
29 to establish a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop  
30 an interagency food systems plan; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
33 Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee, and the Director of  
34 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's



1 designee, are requested to serve as co-chairpersons of the  
2 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one member of the House of  
5 Representatives, to be selected by the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives, and one member of the Senate, to be selected by  
7 the President of the Senate, are requested to collaboratively  
8 select and invite one representative with knowledge in each of  
9 the following areas to serve as working group members:

- 10 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;  
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12 (2) Social equity and food justice;  
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14 (3) Food system resilience;  
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16 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;  
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18 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;  
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20 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair  
21 labor; and  
22  
23 (7) Good food governance; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency food systems  
27 plan is requested to:

- 28  
29 (1) Be linked to the United Nations sustainable  
30 development goals for a more sustainable, resilient  
31 local food economy that enhances and sustains the  
32 environment, economic, and social health of the  
33 community;  
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35 (2) Identify a governance structure;  
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37 (3) Include a plan for implementation;  
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39 (4) Address the following:  
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41 (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;  
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- (B) Social equity and food justice;
  - (C) Food system resilience;
  - (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
  - (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;
  - (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor; and
  - (G) Good food governance; and
- (5) Incorporate any county food access plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is requested to submit the interagency food systems plan and its recommendations for the implementation of the 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 the Department of Agriculture is requested to provide any necessary administrative support, including support for the preparation of the interagency food systems plan, to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

OFFERED BY: *Amy Penno*

MAR - 8 2024

