

MAR 08 2024

SENATE 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

6
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

16
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

21
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,

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
28 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish a
29 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency
30 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

11 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
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13 (2) Social equity and food justice;
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15 (3) Food system resilience;
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17 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
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19 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
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21 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair
22 labor; and
23

24 (7) Good food governance; and
25

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;
34

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:
40

41 (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
42



1 (B) Social equity and food justice;

2 (C) Food system resilience;

3 (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;

4 (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;

5 (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and
6 fair labor; and

7 (G) Good food governance; and

8 (5) Incorporate any county food access plans; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems
10 Working Group is requested to submit the interagency food
11 systems plan and its recommendations for the implementation of
12 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
13 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
14 Session of 2025; and

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

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

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

25 OFFERED BY:

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