
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STRENGTHEN FARM-TO-SCHOOL
INITIATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i currently imports nearly eighty-five to
2 ninety percent of its food, making the State vulnerable to
3 external supply chain disruptions; and
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5 WHEREAS, farm-to-school programs provide an opportunity to
6 increase local food procurement and resilience, reduce Hawai'i's
7 reliance on imported goods, and strengthen the State's
8 agricultural economy; and
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10 WHEREAS, Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, established
11 a goal for at least thirty percent of school meal ingredients to
12 be sourced locally by 2030; and
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14 WHEREAS, significant barriers continue to stifle progress
15 in meeting the local food procurement goal, including
16 procurement regulations, distribution logistics, and
17 inconsistent farmer-school partnerships; and
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19 WHEREAS, expanding local farm procurement in farm-to-school
20 initiatives would support Hawai'i's small and medium-sized farms;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, prioritizing the procurement of locally grown
24 Native Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, 'uala, and ulu, aligns with
25 Hawai'i's commitment to food sovereignty, climate resilience, and
26 indigenous agricultural practices; and
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28 WHEREAS, increasing local farm procurement in schools would
29 provide stable, institutional markets for Hawai'i farmers,



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1 thereby fostering economic growth and workforce development in
2 the State; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
7 is urged to take immediate action to strengthen local farm-to-
8 school initiatives; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
11 requested to:

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- 13 (1) Streamline the procurement process to make it easier
14 for small- and medium-scale farmers to sell to
15 schools, including simplifying contracting
16 requirements and increasing flexibility in sourcing
17 policies;
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 - 19 (2) Develop a statewide database of local farms that are
20 eligible and interested in supplying food for school
21 meals to facilitate farm-to-school connections;
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 - 23 (3) Increase financial incentives for schools to purchase
24 locally sourced food through grant programs,
25 subsidies, or farm-to-school budget allocations; and
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 - 27 (4) Ensure culturally appropriate foods, such as kalo,
28 'uala, and ulu, are incorporated into school meal
29 programs; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
32 requested to submit a report on its progress, including any
33 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
34 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
38 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of
39 Education.



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OFFERED BY:



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