
HOUSE 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,
30 thereby fostering economic growth and workforce development in
31 the State; now, therefore,
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H.R. NO. 100

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

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 8 requested to:

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 10 (1) Streamline the procurement process to make it easier
 11 for small- and medium-scale farmers to sell to
 12 schools, including simplifying contracting
 13 requirements and increasing flexibility in sourcing
 14 policies;
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 16 (2) Develop a statewide database of local farms that are
 17 eligible and interested in supplying food for school
 18 meals to facilitate farm-to-school connections;
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 20 (3) Increase financial incentives for schools to purchase
 21 locally sourced food through grant programs,
 22 subsidies, or farm-to-school budget allocations; and
 23
 24 (4) Ensure culturally appropriate foods, such as kalo,
 25 'uala, and ulu, are incorporated into school meal
 26 programs; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 29 requested to submit a report on its progress, including any
 30 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 31 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of
 35 Education, and Chairperson of the Board of Education.
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OFFERED BY: *Amy Peruso*
 MAR 07 2025

