

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND THE DIRECTOR OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO ENCOURAGE HOSPITALS AND PRISONS TO OFFER MORE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS THAT CONSIST OF MINIMALLY-PROCESSED FRUITS, VEGETABLES, WHOLE GRAINS, LEGUMES, NUTS AND SEEDS, HERBS AND SPICES, AND NON-DAIRY BEVERAGES, RATHER THAN ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS.

1 WHEREAS, a diet that includes minimally-processed fruits,
2 vegetables, legumes, nuts, seeds, herbs, and spices has been
3 shown to reduce the chance of developing diabetes,
4 cardiovascular disease, and various forms of cancer, among other
5 chronic diseases; and

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7 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association encourages this
8 diet because it reduces the risk of heart attack, stroke, heart
9 failure, and several other cardiovascular conditions; and

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11 WHEREAS, many people, including a large majority of
12 Asian-Americans, are lactose-intolerant and should have an
13 option to avoid dairy products; and

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15 WHEREAS, offering minimally-processed fruits, vegetables,
16 whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices, and
17 non-dairy beverages that meet the United States Department of
18 Agriculture's nutritional standards for dairy milk substitutes
19 rather than ultra-processed foods, such as those with artificial
20 colors, flavors, preservatives, and other manufactured
21 ingredients added, can promote a healthy lifestyle for
22 inpatients in hospitals and prisoners, reducing health care
23 costs; and

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25 WHEREAS, state-licensed hospitals, state-operated prisons,
26 and government-sponsored events that offer healthier food
27 options, rather than ultra-processed foods, can provide many
28 additional benefits to the State, including:
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- 1 (1) Saving taxpayers money;
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- 3 (2) Advancing public health, including reducing dietary
- 4 risk factors for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and
- 5 cancer;
- 6
- 7 (3) Supporting farmers throughout the State by increasing
- 8 the demand for, and consumption of, local fruits and
- 9 vegetables; and
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- 11 (4) Promoting traditional Native Hawaiian environmental,
- 12 dietary, and cultural practices; and
- 13

14 WHEREAS, in July 2021, Hawaii became the first state to
 15 declare a climate emergency; and

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 17 WHEREAS, studies indicate that ultra-processed foods
 18 account for up to one-third of total diet-related greenhouse gas
 19 emissions; and

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 21 WHEREAS, offering healthy diet options at state-licensed
 22 hospitals, state-operated prisons, and government-sponsored
 23 events, rather than ultra-processed foods, can help the State
 24 reduce carbon emissions and respond to the climate emergency;
 25 now, therefore,

26
 27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
 28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
 29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
 30 and the Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation are urged to
 31 encourage hospitals and prisons to offer more healthy food
 32 options that consist of minimally-processed fruits, vegetables,
 33 whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices, and
 34 non-dairy beverages, rather than ultra-processed foods; and

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 36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
 38 Corrections and Rehabilitation and Director of Health.

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 41 OFFERED BY: 

