

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TO EQUIP INTERESTED STUDENTS WITH THE NECESSARY ENTRY LEVEL KNOWLEDGE, SKILL SET, EXPERTISE, AND ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF MEAT PROCESSING.

1 WHEREAS, the State's agricultural industry serves a vital
2 role in providing locally sourced food products, contributing to
3 food security, and supporting the local economy; and
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5 WHEREAS, the demand for meat products has steadily
6 increased, and the expansion of meat processing capacity in the
7 State is essential to satisfy higher demand while reducing
8 reliance on imported meat products; and
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10 WHEREAS, with the growth of meat processing facilities in
11 the State, there is a pressing need to ensure that a skilled,
12 knowledgeable, and prepared workforce is available to meet the
13 increase in work demand for processing facilities and within the
14 meat processing industry; however, there is an existing shortage
15 of skilled meat processors in the State, which limits the
16 capacity for local ranchers and farmers to bring their products
17 to market efficiently; and
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19 WHEREAS, establishing a comprehensive educational pathway
20 for meat processing at the community college level could provide
21 local students with hands-on opportunities and skills necessary
22 to contribute to the State's agricultural sustainability; and
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24 WHEREAS, similar programs in other states have proven
25 successful in equipping students with income-earning options at
26 the trades and skill labor level, preparing students with the
27 technical expertise required to satisfy industry standards; and
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29 WHEREAS, a meat processing educational pathway will support
30 workforce diversification, create high quality jobs, and
31 strengthen rural economies by providing skilled labor to address
32 the growing needs of local meat processing facilities. The



1 establishment of a meat processing educational pathway further
2 aligns with the State's goal of increasing food security,
3 meeting the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge and the State's
4 overall sustainability goals; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
8 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to convene a
9 working group to develop a plan to create an educational pathway
10 in the University of Hawaii Community College System to equip
11 interested students with the necessary entry level knowledge,
12 skill set, expertise, and advancement potential in the field of
13 meat processing; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
16 to comprise the following members or their designees:
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- 18 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- 19
- 20 (2) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
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- 22 (3) The Superintendent of Education;
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- 24 (4) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; and
- 25
- 26 (5) The President of the University of Hawaii; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working
29 group are requested to choose a chairperson from among
30 themselves; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group
33 may recommend additional members with relevant knowledge or
34 experience for the chairperson to invite to serve on the working
35 group; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to develop curriculum that includes the following:
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- 40 (1) Coverage of a broad spectrum of topics relevant to
41 meat processing, including but not limited to food
42 safety, animal husbandry, carcass evaluation, meat



- 1 quality, processing techniques, and regulatory
2 compliance;
- 3
- 4 (2) Practical, hands-on training opportunities that allow
5 students to gain real-world experience in meat
6 processing facilities and ensure that students acquire
7 the necessary skills for effective and safe meat
8 handling;
- 9
- 10 (3) Technological advancements in meat processing and
11 relevant tools and equipment to ensure that students
12 are familiar with the latest industry practices and
13 innovations;
- 14
- 15 (4) Emphasis on the importance of food safety protocols
16 and quality assurance measures throughout the
17 educational pathway;
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- 19 (5) Training on hazard analysis critical control points
20 and other relevant certifications to ensure compliance
21 with industry standards;
- 22
- 23 (6) Modules on local, state, and federal regulations that
24 govern meat processing to ensure that students are
25 well-versed in compliance requirements that contribute
26 to the production of safe and legally marketable meat
27 products;
- 28
- 29 (7) Education on sustainable practices within the meat
30 processing industry that encourage responsible
31 resource use, waste reduction, and environmentally-
32 conscious decision-making;
- 33
- 34 (8) Fostering of connections between educational
35 institutions and local businesses to create
36 opportunities for mentorships, internships, and
37 industry partnerships that enhance students' practical
38 knowledge and job placement prospects;
- 39
- 40 (9) Establishment of pathways for continuous learning and
41 professional development that enable graduates to stay
42 current with industry trends, regulations, and



1 technological advancements throughout their careers;
2 and

3
4 (10) Promotion of inclusivity within the educational
5 pathway by welcoming individuals from diverse
6 backgrounds and ensuring that the curriculum addresses
7 the needs of a broad and representative spectrum of
8 students, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and
9 equitable meat processing industry; and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
12 to submit an interim report of its progress, including any
13 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
14 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
17 to submit a final report of its plan, including any proposed
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
22 to be dissolved on June 30, 2027; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
26 Agriculture; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
27 Superintendent of Education; Director of Labor and Industrial
28 Relations; and President of the University of Hawaii.

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31 OFFERED BY: *Heath M. Robinson*

