

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) Saving taxpayers money;
- (2) Advancing public health, including reducing dietary risk factors for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer;
- (3) Supporting farmers throughout the State by increasing the demand for, and consumption of, local fruits and vegetables; and
- (4) Promoting traditional Native Hawaiian environmental, dietary, and cultural practices; and

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health and the Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation are urged 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; and

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

OFFERED BY:


