
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON HAWAII'S FOOD MANUFACTURING
STRENGTHS AND STRATEGIC MARKETS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's economy relies on small businesses, which
2 account for 99.3 percent of businesses and 49.3 percent of
3 employees across the State; and
4

5 WHEREAS, a report on small businesses by the Economic
6 Research Organization at the University of Hawaii recommended
7 that the State create centralized networking systems to help
8 small businesses build connections and collaborate on projects;
9 launch initiatives in partnership with educational institutions
10 for technical skills, training, leadership development, and
11 employee retention strategies; and foster small business growth
12 and sustainability by implementing policies from comparable
13 jurisdictions, including business incubators, innovation hubs,
14 and public-private partnerships; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Act 237, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, established
17 the Food and Product Innovation Network, a statewide network of
18 open-access food and value-added product development facilities
19 to enable businesses to scale up new products by supporting
20 research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Food and Product Innovation Network is modeled
24 on New Zealand's public-private innovation network, which
25 includes food innovation hubs that are strategically located and
26 coordinated nationally to deliver complementary services across
27 the nation; and
28

29 WHEREAS, similar to Hawaii, Singapore faces severe
30 geographic and agricultural land constraints and has
31 strategically shifted its food innovation focus toward



1 developing high-value, technology-driven food products and
2 premium exports, recognizing that traditional volume-based
3 agriculture is not economically viable in a resource-scarce
4 environment; and

5
6 WHEREAS, shared-use scaling facilities, such as Singapore's
7 FoodPlant, provide critical insight into how the State can
8 utilize small-batch production infrastructure to mitigate
9 prohibitive initial capital costs, thereby enabling businesses
10 to systematically engineer products specifically for high-
11 margin, premium consumer markets; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's ability to compete in global markets
14 depends on its capacity to use similar coordinated and strategic
15 planning to refine processes, scale production, and manufacture
16 high-value, export-ready ingredients and goods; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the Food and Product Innovation Network uniquely
19 integrates entrepreneurial education, workforce development,
20 agricultural production, and value-added innovation into one
21 coordinated system; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the successful implementation and growth of the
24 Food and Product Innovation Network requires further examination
25 of Hawaii's food manufacturing strengths and the identification
26 of strategic markets for local high-value, premium products;
27 now, therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Business,
32 Economic Development, and Tourism (Department) is requested to
33 conduct a study on Hawaii's food manufacturing strengths and
34 strategic markets, including an assessment of the competitive
35 advantages of Hawaii-made products and the specific high-value,
36 premium products that the State should focus on manufacturing
37 for export; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the study, the
40 Department is requested to establish clear economic metrics
41 defining what qualifies as a high-value product and to identify
42 specific markets matching those metrics with specific product



1 categories that possess the highest probability of export
2 success; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
5 include in the study a comprehensive cost-of-production
6 analysis, factoring in Hawaii's high operational costs,
7 including energy, labor, and imported ingredients, to
8 mathematically determine the minimum profit margins required to
9 make local food manufacturing economically viable; and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
12 assess any logistical or transportation barriers that currently
13 prevent entry into identified strategic markets and to propose
14 state-level solutions; and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
17 requested to use the findings of the study to update the
18 curriculum at the Maui Food Innovation Center and Wahiawa Value-
19 Added Product Development Center to ensure that local
20 entrepreneurs are taught to engineer products specifically for
21 high-value, export-oriented markets from the very beginning; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
24 collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity,
25 Agribusiness Development Corporation and its innovation centers,
26 and University of Hawaii to ensure that the results of the study
27 are integrated into existing workforce development and business
28 incubation programs; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agribusiness Development
31 Corporation is requested to utilize the findings of the study to
32 guide the development and operation of its next-phase scaling
33 facilities, ensuring that businesses developed through
34 University of Hawaii programs are supported with the necessary
35 infrastructure to manufacture high-value products and achieve
36 sustainable economic growth; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on the study's findings,
39 the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of
40 Hawaii are requested to collaborate to instill market discipline
41 early in the Food and Product Innovation Network process,



1 teaching entrepreneurs which products are high-value and viable
2 for export; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
5 propose policy recommendations on how the State can realign and
6 prioritize existing economic development resources, grants, and
7 funding mechanisms to specifically support businesses that
8 manufacture the identified high-value, premium products and
9 submit the proposed policy recommendations to the Legislature no
10 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
11 Session of 2027; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
15 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the
16 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; President of the
17 University of Hawaii; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of
18 the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Executive Director of
19 the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director of the Maui
20 Food Innovation Center; and Director of the Wahiawa Value-Added
21 Product Development Center.

