
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

1 WHEREAS, according to the *State of Food Insecurity in*
2 *Hawai'i 2024-2025* report compiled by Hawaii Foodbank and its
3 affiliate foodbanks statewide, approximately thirty-two percent
4 of the State's households experienced food insecurity, meaning
5 they lacked consistent access to sufficient, nutritious, and
6 affordable food, and more than one in five households reported
7 "very low food security", with members skipping meals or going
8 entire days without eating due to lack of resources; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to the report, among households with
11 children, thirty-four percent experienced food insecurity, an
12 increase from prior reporting, indicating that more than one in
13 three families struggle to reliably feed their keiki and
14 demonstrating a worsening trend among families with children;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, young adults, ages eighteen to twenty-nine, and
18 households relying on federal nutrition assistance were also
19 reported to have faced particularly high rates of food
20 insecurity; and
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22 WHEREAS, food insecurity disproportionately impacts certain
23 communities in the State, who face higher rates of poverty,
24 limited access to healthy and culturally relevant foods, and
25 systemic barriers in both urban and rural areas; and
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27 WHEREAS, these populations often experience compounded
28 challenges from geographic isolation and intergenerational
29 inequities and are more impacted by processed foods, climate



1 change, and economic disruptions, underscoring the need for
2 targeted strategies that honor cultural practices, support
3 community-led food systems, and promote equitable access to
4 nutritious and locally grown foods; and
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6 WHEREAS, food insecurity imposes serious consequences on
7 health, dignity, community resilience, and long-term economic
8 stability, including increased risk of diet-related illness,
9 developmental and educational impairments for keiki, mental
10 health stresses, and higher public health costs, making food
11 security a matter of public welfare, equity, and justice; now,
12 therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Chairperson of
17 Agriculture and Biosecurity, or the Chairperson's designee, is
18 requested to collaborate with appropriate state and county
19 agencies, including but not limited to: The Hawaii Interagency
20 Food Systems Working Group; county agencies; Department of
21 Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Agribusiness
22 Development Corporation; Department of Human Services;
23 Department of Health; Department of Transportation; Hawaii
24 Emergency Management Agency; and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in
25 coordination with community-based organizations, Native Hawaiian
26 and Pacific Islander leaders, food access organizations, food
27 security coalitions, and other relevant stakeholders, to develop
28 a comprehensive statewide food security strategy; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide food security
31 strategy is requested to be data-driven, equity-focused, and at
32 a minimum:
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- 34 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's
35 diverse communities, including individuals with
36 disabilities and access and functional needs, ensuring
37 that the assessment includes economic, geographic,
38 cultural, and programmatic barriers and anticipates
39 future food-security needs;
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41 (2) For individuals with disabilities and access and
42 functional needs, align strategies with existing



1 programs that serve these populations, including the
2 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid
3 Home- and Community-Based Services, and aging network
4 supports, to reduce fragmentation and improve access;
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6 (3) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies
7 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,
8 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including
9 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;
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11 (4) Align strategies and findings with the statutory
12 mandates established by Act 151, Session Laws of
13 Hawaii 2019; Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; and
14 Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021;
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16 (5) Coordinate with existing county food security and food
17 system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment with
18 adopted county food plans and related planning
19 documents to support statewide coherence and effective
20 implementation; and
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22 (6) Support community-driven solutions that promote
23 independence, dignity, and long-term stability for
24 individuals and families; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
27 and Biosecurity is requested to submit the comprehensive
28 statewide food security strategy to inform future legislation,
29 appropriations, and policy actions related to food security and
30 the right to food throughout the State, including any findings,
31 recommendations, proposed implementation steps, and any proposed
32 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
33 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
37 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,
38 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services;
39 Director of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of
40 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board
41 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive
42 Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Chair of



1 the Hawaii Interagency Food Systems Working Group; and Mayor of
2 each county.

