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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDITOR'S REPORT NO. 26-08 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HAWAII'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL AND LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES.

1           WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of  
2 strengthening Hawaii's food resilience, supporting local  
3 agriculture, and improving the nutritional quality of school  
4 meals through policies that encourage the procurement of locally  
5 grown and produced foods for public school meal programs; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Department of Education was tasked with  
8 meeting goals for increasing the use of locally sourced food in  
9 school meals, including a statutory benchmark that at least ten  
10 percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced,  
11 reflecting the State's commitment to strengthening local food  
12 systems and reducing dependence on imported food; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the Auditor issued Auditor's Report No. 26-08,  
15 evaluating the Department of Education's progress in  
16 implementing the State's Farm-to-School and local food  
17 procurement policies; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the audit identified several systemic challenges  
20 that have limited progress toward the State's goals, including  
21 the absence of a comprehensive strategic plan, limited  
22 coordination with local agricultural producers and distributors,  
23 procurement processes that do not readily identify locally  
24 sourced products, and the need for improved data collection and  
25 reporting systems; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the audit further highlighted the importance of  
28 improved coordination between the Department of Education's meal



1 system and Hawaii's agricultural sector to strengthen food  
2 system resilience while supporting local farmers and producers;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, addressing these challenges requires collaboration  
6 among educators, agricultural producers, food distributors,  
7 policymakers, nutrition professionals, and community  
8 organizations working to strengthen Hawaii's local food systems;  
9 now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education  
14 is requested to convene a Farm-to-School and Local Food  
15 Procurement Working Group to review the findings of Auditor's  
16 Report No. 26-08 and identify strategies for strengthening the  
17 Department's ability to meet its local food procurement goals;  
18 and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
21 to consist of no more than seventeen members, representing key  
22 stakeholder groups involved in the school food system and local  
23 agriculture sector, and include the following representation:  
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- 25 (1) The Administrator of the School Food Services Branch  
26 of the Department of Education, or the Administrator's  
27 designee;  
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- 29 (2) The Department of Education's Farm-to-School  
30 Coordinator, or an equivalent staff member responsible  
31 for local food procurement initiatives;  
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- 33 (3) One representative from the Department of Agriculture  
34 and Biosecurity, to be designated by the Chairperson  
35 of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity;  
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- 37 (4) One representative from the Department of Education's  
38 Office of Facilities and Operations or procurement  
39 administration, to be designated by the Superintendent  
40 of Education;  
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- 1 (5) Two representatives of Hawaii agricultural producers,  
2 including at least one farmer currently supplying or  
3 seeking to supply food to institutional buyers, to be  
4 invited by the Superintendent of Education;  
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- 6 (6) Two representatives of food distributors or vendors  
7 that supply food to the public school system, to be  
8 invited by the Superintendent of Education;  
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- 10 (7) One public school principal, to be invited by the  
11 Superintendent of Education;  
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- 13 (8) One public school cafeteria manager or food service  
14 supervisor, to be invited by the Superintendent of  
15 Education;  
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- 17 (9) Two representatives of child nutrition or school  
18 nutrition professionals, including individuals with  
19 expertise in federal school meal program  
20 administration, to be invited by the Superintendent of  
21 Education;  
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- 23 (10) Three representatives of nonprofit or community  
24 organizations engaged in farm-to-school, food system  
25 development, or agricultural education initiatives in  
26 Hawaii, to be invited by the Superintendent of  
27 Education;  
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- 29 (11) One member of the House of Representatives, to be  
30 designated by the Speaker of the House; and  
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- 32 (12) One member of the Senate, to be designated by the  
33 President of the Senate; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
36 to review and discuss the findings of Auditor's Report No. 26-08  
37 and identify practical strategies to:

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- 39 (1) Improve the collection, accuracy, and reporting of  
40 data regarding locally sourced food in public school  
41 meals;  
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- 1           (2) Identify procurement practices that better support the  
2           identification and purchase of locally produced food  
3           items while maintaining compliance with applicable  
4           procurement laws and federal program requirements;  
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- 6           (3) Strengthen coordination between the Department of  
7           Education and Hawaii's agricultural sector;  
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- 9           (4) Identify opportunities to strengthen local food supply  
10          chains capable of serving public schools; and  
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- 12          (5) Provide recommendations for administrative or  
13          legislative actions that may help the Department of  
14          Education meet its local food procurement goals; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
17          requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
18          twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
19          2027 summarizing the Working Group's discussions, including any  
20          findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation; and  
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22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23          Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
24          Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of  
25          the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, President of the  
26          Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

