
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
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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 cities, including business incubators, innovation hubs, and
14 public-private partnerships; and
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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
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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
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29 WHEREAS, similar to Hawaii, Singapore faces severe
30 geographic and agricultural land constraints and has
31 strategically shifted its food innovation focus toward
32 developing high-value, technology-driven food products and



1 premium exports, recognizing that traditional volume-based
2 agriculture is not economically viable in a resource-scarce
3 environment; and

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

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

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17 WHEREAS, the State's food and product innovation network
18 uniquely integrates entrepreneurial education, workforce
19 development, agricultural production, and value-added innovation
20 into one coordinated system; and

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

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

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



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

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on the study's findings,
40 the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of
41 Hawaii are requested to collaborate to instill market discipline
42 early in the food and product innovation network process,



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

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
5 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to propose policy
6 recommendations on how the State can realign and prioritize
7 existing economic development resources, grants, and funding
8 mechanisms to specifically support businesses that manufacture
9 the identified high-value, premium products; and

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

OFFERED BY:



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