
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESILIENCE TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SECONDARY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the State imports more than eighty-five percent of
2 its food and is considered highly vulnerable in its food
3 security; and

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5 WHEREAS, to address this vulnerability, the State has
6 adopted various food and agricultural self-sufficiency goals
7 that necessitate strategic investment into the local
8 agricultural sector and related trades, particularly through the
9 expansion of education and training opportunities to address the
10 State's declining agricultural workforce; and

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12 WHEREAS, since 1930, the Department of Education's
13 Secondary Agricultural Education Program, now known as the
14 Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Program, and the
15 companion agricultural leadership youth organization, Future
16 Farmers of America, have supported the development of a
17 qualified local agricultural workforce through an experiential
18 educational curriculum; and

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20 WHEREAS, through agricultural content, Future Farmers of
21 America leadership training, and project-based learning known as
22 the Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, this curriculum
23 teaches students the application of science and academic skills,
24 encourages civic engagement, and exposes them to diverse
25 agricultural career pathways; and

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27 WHEREAS, before 2000, the Secondary Agricultural Education
28 Program had a robust presence in over thirty high schools and
29 statewide Future Farmers of America enrollment totaled over
30 eight hundred members; and



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2 WHEREAS, since 2000, however, enrollment in the Program has
3 declined due to policy shifts caused by the No Child Left Behind
4 Act of 2002, local loss of science credit for agriculture
5 education courses, funding cuts due to implementation of the
6 Weighted Student Formula, closure of the University of Hawaii at
7 Manoa College of Education's Secondary Agriculture Teacher
8 Degree Program, and loss of centralized content specialists
9 because of adoption of the School/Community Based Management
10 governance structure; and

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12 WHEREAS, despite this decline, increased student exposure
13 to agricultural occupations through the emerging regional
14 kitchen initiative and new school gardening and farm-to-school
15 programs offers a unique opportunity to restore and develop the
16 Secondary Agricultural Education Program; and

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18 WHEREAS, through immediate and targeted professional
19 development, the State can support its food self-sufficiency
20 goals and rising demand for agricultural producers and the many
21 occupations that support agricultural production; and

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23 WHEREAS, employing an extension agent at the University of
24 Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
25 Resilience offers an efficient professional development solution
26 by performing outreach and creating a direct line of
27 agricultural best practices to local schools conducting Future
28 Farmers of America activities; and

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30 WHEREAS, many land grant universities have successfully
31 deployed this model of establishing a pipeline from lower to
32 higher education to quickly transfer agricultural technology and
33 knowledge to teachers and students contemplating agricultural
34 careers; and

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36 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of
37 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, as one of the best
38 tropical agriculture colleges in the world, is uniquely well-
39 suited to housing an extension agent to enable a high-quality
40 teacher workforce; now, therefore,

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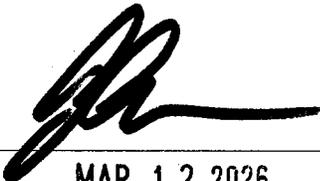


H.C.R. NO. 77

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
4 and the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical
5 Agriculture and Human Resilience are requested to support the
6 Department of Education's Secondary Agricultural Education
7 Program and the Future Farmers of America program; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
11 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and President
12 of the University of Hawaii System.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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