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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A PLAN THAT  
REMOVES CARCINOGENS FROM SCHOOL MEALS.

1           WHEREAS, the World Health Organization's International  
2 Agency for Research on Cancer has classified processed meats as  
3 a Group 1 carcinogen because there is sufficient evidence that  
4 it causes cancer in humans; and

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6           WHEREAS, processed meats include any meat that has been  
7 modified through salting, curing, fermenting, smoking, or other  
8 processes to enhance flavor or improve preservation; and

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10          WHEREAS, processed meats include hot dogs, bacon, deli  
11 meats, ham, and pepperoni; and

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13          WHEREAS, processed meats often contain sodium nitrite or  
14 sodium nitrate as preservatives and color fixatives, and in the  
15 body, or during high-heat cooking, these compounds can form  
16 nitrosamines, which are known carcinogens; and

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18          WHEREAS, children are especially vulnerable to the long-  
19 term health impacts of poor diet, including increased risk of  
20 chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and obesity; and

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22          WHEREAS, the Department of Education administers school  
23 meal programs that serve tens of thousands of breakfasts and  
24 lunches daily, some of which contain processed meats; and

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26          WHEREAS, providing students with healthier meals would  
27 support their academic performance, physical development, and  
28 long-term well-being; and

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30          WHEREAS, several school systems nationwide have already  
31 taken steps to reduce or eliminate processed meats from their



1 menus, demonstrating that such a transition is feasible; now,  
2 therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education  
7 is requested to create a plan to transition school meals away  
8 from processed meats and toward fiber-rich proteins, completely  
9 eliminating processed meats by 2032 or at least offering a  
10 whole-foods, scratch made, or minimally processed plant-based  
11 alternative to processed meats; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan include:  
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- 15 (1) An inventory of existing school menu items containing  
16 processed meats;  
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18 (2) A proposed timeline for the reduction and eventual  
19 phase-out of processed meats, or the offering of a  
20 whole-foods, scratch made, or minimally processed  
21 plant-based alternative to processed meats;  
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23 (3) Nutritional standards and sourcing guidelines for  
24 replacement options; and  
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26 (4) Estimated costs and funding opportunities to support  
27 the transition; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
30 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
31 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
32 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
33 the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
37 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of  
38 Education, Director of Health, and Director of the School Food  
39 Services Branch of the Department of Education.  
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