
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE DETAILING FARM-TO-SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION, LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT, REGIONAL KITCHEN ALIGNMENT, AND FEDERAL FARM-TO-SCHOOL GRANT PARTICIPATION.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's regional kitchen investments,
2 institutional procurement goals, and ongoing regional
3 agricultural feasibility studies represent a significant public
4 investment intended to expand local food production and reduce
5 the State's dependence on imported food; and
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7 WHEREAS, the success of these efforts requires alignment
8 between institutional buyers and upstream producers so that
9 procurement-driven demand is matched by production capacity,
10 acreage expansion, processing readiness, and participation by
11 local farmers; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is the State's largest
14 institutional food purchaser and plays a central role in
15 advancing farm-to-school programs, local procurement targets,
16 and the effective use of regional kitchen infrastructure; and
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18 WHEREAS, modular and distributed regional kitchen
19 infrastructure--including mobile units, small-scale processing
20 hubs, and shared-use facilities--combined with transparent
21 procurement reporting and multi-year purchasing frameworks can
22 help address neighbor island realities, reduce risks for
23 farmers, and strengthen local supply chains; and
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25 WHEREAS, a report by the Department of Education
26 documenting current procurement conditions and operational
27 constraints, and providing an actionable implementation plan
28 would help support coordinated statewide efforts, strengthen
29 local food security, and expand participation by small- and
30 mid-sized farms in institutional markets; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2026, that the Department of Education is requested to submit



1 a report to the Legislature detailing the Department's
2 implementation of the farm-to-school education and food
3 procurement program, local food procurement, and alignment with
4 Hawaii's regional kitchen investments and regional agricultural
5 feasibility efforts; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
8 requested to include in the report the following information:
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10 (1) Baseline local procurement and progress metrics,
11 including:
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13 (A) A summary of the Department of Education's
14 current local food procurement levels, including
15 available baseline data and trends over time; and
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17 (B) Where feasible, a breakdown by complex area,
18 island, or region, and by major product
19 categories (e.g., produce, protein, value-added
20 items);
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22 (2) An assessment of regional kitchen alignment and
23 operational readiness, including:
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25 (A) How the Department's procurement operations and
26 meal service plans align with the State's
27 regional kitchen model, including any anticipated
28 use of modular or distributed infrastructure such
29 as mobile units, shared-use processing hubs, or
30 aggregation points; and
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32 (B) Key operational requirements necessary for
33 utilizing regional kitchens, such as product
34 specifications, packaging, minimum volumes,
35 delivery frequency, food safety, and processing
36 standards;
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38 (3) The recommended procurement and contracting structure,
39 including:
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- 1 (A) A description of current contracting methods,
2 vendor arrangements, and procurement policies
3 that affect local purchasing; and
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- 5 (B) The identification of barriers and recommended
6 administrative or statutory changes that would
7 enable expanded participation by local producers,
8 including small- and mid-sized farms;
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- 10 (4) The status of the farm-to-school education and food
11 procurement program implementation, including:
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 - 13 (A) A summary of existing farm-to-school activities
14 and partnerships; and
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 - 16 (B) A discussion of any current constraints affecting
17 expansion--for example, staffing, procurement
18 processes, supply reliability, food safety
19 compliance, processing or aggregation
20 limitations, or transportation;
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- 22 (5) An assessment of federal funding participation and
23 United States Department of Agriculture farm-to-school
24 grant planning, including:
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 - 26 (A) A description of the Department of Education's
27 participation in the United States Department of
28 Agriculture farm-to-school grant program during
29 the prior grant cycle, including whether the
30 Department of Education applied or served as a
31 partner;
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 - 33 (B) If the Department of Education did not
34 participate, an explanation any barriers to
35 participation and what would be required for the
36 Department of Education to participate in the
37 next cycle; and
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 - 39 (C) A forward plan describing the Department of
40 Education's intended approach for future grant
41 participation and the internal processes and



1 timeline for approval, including coordination
2 with partner agencies or applicants; and
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4 (6) An action plan, timeline, and list of resource needs,
5 including:
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7 (A) A near-term (up to one year) and mid-term (one to
8 three years) plan for increasing local
9 procurement and strengthening farm-to-school
10 implementation in coordination with regional
11 kitchen investments; and
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13 (B) A list of any staffing, technical assistance,
14 systems modernization, or funding needed to
15 execute the plan, including recommendations for
16 coordination among state agencies, including the
17 Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity;
18 Agribusiness Development Corporation; and
19 Department of Business, Economic Development, and
20 Tourism; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the
23 Department of Education, in preparing the report, to consult
24 with relevant state agencies and stakeholders involved in
25 institutional procurement, regional kitchen planning, and
26 regional agricultural feasibility efforts to ensure that the
27 report reflects island-specific realities and offers flexibility
28 rather than a one-size-fits-all approach; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature believes that a
31 clear report and implementation plan from the Department of
32 Education will help strengthen alignment between institutional
33 demand and upstream production readiness, maximize the impact of
34 public investment in regional kitchens, support equitable
35 participation by small- and mid-sized farms, and accelerate
36 progress toward improved food security and resilient neighbor
37 island economies; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
40 requested to submit its report, including any findings,
41 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
2 Session of 2027; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
6 Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of
7 the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,
8 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Executive Director of the
9 Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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