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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

1           WHEREAS, according to the *State of Food Insecurity in*  
2 *Hawai'i 2024-2025* report compiled by Hawaii Foodbank and its  
3 affiliate foodbanks statewide, approximately thirty-two percent  
4 of the State's households experienced food insecurity, meaning  
5 they lacked consistent access to sufficient, nutritious, and  
6 affordable food, and more than one in five households reported  
7 "very low food security", with members skipping meals or going  
8 entire days without eating due to lack of resources; and  
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10           WHEREAS, according to the report, among households with  
11 children, thirty-four percent experienced food insecurity, an  
12 increase from prior reporting, indicating that more than one in  
13 three families struggle to reliably feed their keiki and  
14 demonstrating a worsening trend among families with children;  
15 and  
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17           WHEREAS, young adults, ages 18 to 29, and households  
18 relying on federal nutrition assistance were also reported to  
19 have faced particularly high rates of food insecurity; and  
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21           WHEREAS, food insecurity disproportionately impacts Native  
22 Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other historically  
23 marginalized communities in the State, who face higher rates of  
24 poverty, limited access to healthy and culturally relevant  
25 foods, and systemic barriers in both urban and rural areas; and  
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27           WHEREAS, these populations often experience compounded  
28 challenges from geographic isolation and intergenerational  
29 inequities and are more impacted by processed foods, climate  
30 change, and economic disruptions, underscoring the need for  
31 targeted strategies that honor cultural practices, support



1 community-led food systems, and promote equitable access to  
2 nutritious and locally grown foods; and  
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4 WHEREAS, food insecurity imposes serious consequences on  
5 health, dignity, community resilience, and long-term economic  
6 stability, including increased risk of diet-related illness,  
7 developmental and educational impairments for keiki, mental  
8 health stresses, and higher public health costs, making food  
9 security a matter of public welfare, equity, and justice; now,  
10 therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2026, that the Chairperson of Agriculture and Biosecurity or  
15 the Chairperson's designee, is requested to collaborate with  
16 appropriate state and county agencies, including but not limited  
17 to: The Hawaii Interagency Food Systems Working Group; county  
18 agencies; Department of Business, Economic Development and  
19 Tourism; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Department of  
20 Human Services; Department of Health; Department of  
21 Transportation; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; and Office  
22 of Hawaiian Affairs, in coordination with community-based  
23 organizations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander leaders,  
24 food access organizations, food security coalitions, and other  
25 relevant stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive statewide food  
26 security strategy; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide food security  
29 strategy is requested to be data-driven, equity-focused, and at  
30 a minimum:  
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- 32 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's  
33 diverse communities, including economic, geographic,  
34 cultural, and programmatic barriers, and anticipate  
35 future food-security needs;  
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- 37 (2) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies  
38 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,  
39 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including  
40 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;  
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- 1 (3) Align strategies and findings with the statutory  
2 mandates established by Act 151, Session Laws of  
3 Hawaii 2019; Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; and  
4 Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; and  
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- 6 (4) Coordinate with existing county food security and food  
7 system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment with  
8 adopted county food plans and related planning  
9 documents to support statewide coherence and effective  
10 implementation; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Department of Agriculture and  
13 Biosecurity is requested to submit the comprehensive statewide  
14 food security strategy to inform future legislation,  
15 appropriations, and policy actions related to food security and  
16 the right to food throughout the State, including any findings,  
17 recommendations, proposed implementation steps, and any proposed  
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
23 Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business, Economic  
24 Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services; Director  
25 of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of the  
26 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board of  
27 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive Director of the  
28 Agribusiness Development Corporation; and Mayor of each county.  
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