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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 eighteen to twenty-nine, and  
18 households relying on federal nutrition assistance were also  
19 reported to have faced particularly high rates of food  
20 insecurity; and  
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22           WHEREAS, food insecurity disproportionately impacts certain  
23 communities in the State, who face higher rates of poverty,  
24 limited access to healthy and culturally relevant foods, and  
25 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

3  
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,

11  
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

27  
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:

- 31  
32 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's  
33 diverse communities, including individuals with  
34 disabilities and access and functional needs, ensuring  
35 that the assessment includes economic, geographic,  
36 cultural, and programmatic barriers and anticipates  
37 future food-security needs;
- 38  
39 (2) For individuals with disabilities and access and  
40 functional needs, align strategies with existing  
41 programs that serve these populations, including the  
42 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid



1 Home- and Community-Based Services, and aging network  
2 supports, to reduce fragmentation and improve access;  
3

4 (3) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies  
5 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,  
6 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including  
7 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;  
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9 (4) Align strategies and findings with the statutory  
10 mandates established by Act 151, Session Laws of  
11 Hawaii 2019; Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; and  
12 Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021;  
13

14 (5) Coordinate with existing county food security and food  
15 system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment with  
16 adopted county food plans and related planning  
17 documents to support statewide coherence and effective  
18 implementation; and  
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20 (6) Support community-driven solutions that promote  
21 independence, dignity, and long-term stability for  
22 individuals and families; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
25 and Biosecurity is requested to submit the comprehensive  
26 statewide food security strategy to inform future legislation,  
27 appropriations, and policy actions related to food security and  
28 the right to food throughout the State, including any findings,  
29 recommendations, proposed implementation steps, and any proposed  
30 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
31 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
35 Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business, Economic  
36 Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services; Director  
37 of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of the  
38 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board of  
39 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive Director  
40 of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Chair of the Hawaii  
41 Interagency Food Systems Working Group; and Mayor of each  
42 county.

