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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF AUDITOR'S REPORT NO. 26-08 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HAWAII'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL AND LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES.

1           WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of  
2 strengthening Hawaii's food resilience, supporting local  
3 agriculture, and improving the nutritional quality of school  
4 meals through policies that encourage the procurement of locally  
5 grown and produced foods for public school meal programs; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Department of Education was tasked with  
8 meeting goals for increasing the use of locally sourced food in  
9 school meals, including a statutory benchmark that at least ten  
10 percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced,  
11 reflecting the State's commitment to strengthening local food  
12 systems and reducing dependence on imported food; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, the Auditor issued Auditor's Report No. 26-08,  
15 evaluating the Department of Education's progress in  
16 implementing the State's Farm-to-School and local food  
17 procurement policies; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the audit identified several systemic challenges  
20 that have limited progress toward the State's goals, including  
21 the absence of a comprehensive strategic plan, limited  
22 coordination with local agricultural producers and distributors,  
23 procurement processes that do not readily identify locally  
24 sourced products, and the need for improved data collection and  
25 reporting systems; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, the audit further highlighted the importance of  
28 improved coordination between the Department of Education's meal  
29 system and Hawaii's agricultural sector to strengthen food



1 system resilience while supporting local farmers and producers;  
2 and  
3

4 WHEREAS, addressing these challenges requires collaboration  
5 among educators, agricultural producers, food distributors,  
6 policymakers, nutrition professionals, and community  
7 organizations working to strengthen Hawaii's local food systems;  
8 now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2026, that the Department of Education is requested to  
13 convene a Farm-to-School and Local Food Procurement Working  
14 Group to review the findings of Auditor's Report No. 26-08 and  
15 identify strategies for strengthening the Department's ability  
16 to meet its local food procurement goals; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
19 to consist of no more than seventeen members, representing key  
20 stakeholder groups involved in the school food system and local  
21 agriculture sector, and include the following representation:  
22

- 23 (1) The Administrator of the School Food Services Branch  
24 of the Department of Education, or the Administrator's  
25 designee;  
26
- 27 (2) The Department of Education's Farm-to-School  
28 Coordinator, or an equivalent staff member responsible  
29 for local food procurement initiatives;  
30
- 31 (3) One representative from the Department of Agriculture  
32 and Biosecurity, to be designated by the Chairperson  
33 of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity;  
34
- 35 (4) One representative from the Department of Education's  
36 Office of Facilities and Operations or procurement  
37 administration, to be designated by the Superintendent  
38 of Education;  
39
- 40 (5) Two representatives of Hawaii agricultural producers,  
41 including at least one farmer currently supplying or



- 1 seeking to supply food to institutional buyers, to be
- 2 invited by the Superintendent of Education;
- 3
- 4 (6) Two representatives of food distributors or vendors
- 5 that supply food to the public school system, to be
- 6 invited by the Superintendent of Education;
- 7
- 8 (7) One public school principal, to be invited by the
- 9 Superintendent of Education;
- 10
- 11 (8) One public school cafeteria manager or food service
- 12 supervisor, to be invited by the Superintendent of
- 13 Education;
- 14
- 15 (9) Two representatives of child nutrition or school
- 16 nutrition professionals, including individuals with
- 17 expertise in federal school meal program
- 18 administration, to be invited by the Superintendent of
- 19 Education;
- 20
- 21 (10) Three representatives of nonprofit or community
- 22 organizations engaged in farm-to-school, food system
- 23 development, or agricultural education initiatives in
- 24 Hawaii, to be invited by the Superintendent of
- 25 Education;
- 26
- 27 (11) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
- 28 designated by the Speaker of the House; and
- 29
- 30 (12) One member of the Senate, to be designated by the
- 31 President of the Senate; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
34 to review and discuss the findings of Auditor's Report No. 26-08  
35 and identify practical strategies to:

- 36
- 37 (1) Improve the collection, accuracy, and reporting of
- 38 data regarding locally sourced food in public school
- 39 meals;
- 40
- 41 (2) Identify procurement practices that better support the
- 42 identification and purchase of locally produced food



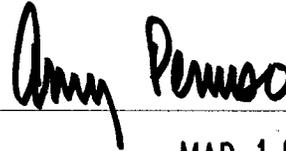
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- 1 items while maintaining compliance with applicable  
2 procurement laws and federal program requirements;  
3  
4 (3) Strengthen coordination between the Department of  
5 Education and Hawaii's agricultural sector;  
6  
7 (4) Identify opportunities to strengthen local food supply  
8 chains capable of serving public schools; and  
9  
10 (5) Provide recommendations for administrative or  
11 legislative actions that may help the Department of  
12 Education meet its local food procurement goals; and  
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
15 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than  
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
17 2027 summarizing the Working Group's discussions, including any  
18 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation; and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,  
22 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Chairperson of the  
23 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.  
24  
25  
26

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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