
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESILIENCE TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SECONDARY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the State imports more than eighty-five percent of
2 its food and is considered highly vulnerable in its food
3 security; and
4

5 WHEREAS, to address this vulnerability, the State has
6 adopted various food and agricultural self-sufficiency goals
7 that necessitate strategic investment into the local
8 agricultural sector and related trades, particularly through the
9 expansion of education and training opportunities to address the
10 State's declining agricultural workforce; and
11

12 WHEREAS, since 1930, the Department of Education's
13 Secondary Agricultural Education Program, now known as the
14 Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Program, and the
15 companion agricultural leadership youth organization, Future
16 Farmers of America, have supported the development of a
17 qualified local agricultural workforce through an experiential
18 educational curriculum; and
19

20 WHEREAS, through agricultural content, Future Farmers of
21 America leadership training, and project-based learning known as
22 the Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, this curriculum
23 teaches students the application of science and academic skills,
24 encourages civic engagement, and exposes them to diverse
25 agricultural career pathways; and
26

27 WHEREAS, before 2000, the Secondary Agricultural Education
28 Program had a robust presence in over thirty high schools and
29 statewide Future Farmers of America enrollment totaled over
30 eight hundred members; and
31

32 WHEREAS, since 2000, however, enrollment in the Program has
33 declined due to policy shifts caused by the No Child Left Behind



1 Act of 2002, local loss of science credit for agriculture
2 education courses, funding cuts due to implementation of the
3 Weighted Student Formula, closure of the University of Hawaii at
4 Manoa College of Education's Secondary Agriculture Teacher
5 Degree Program, and loss of centralized content specialists
6 because of adoption of the School/Community Based Management
7 governance structure; and

8
9 WHEREAS, despite this decline, increased student exposure
10 to agricultural occupations through the emerging regional
11 kitchen initiative and new school gardening and farm-to-school
12 programs offers a unique opportunity to restore and develop the
13 Secondary Agricultural Education Program; and

14
15 WHEREAS, through immediate and targeted professional
16 development, the State can support its food self-sufficiency
17 goals and rising demand for agricultural producers and the many
18 occupations that support agricultural production; and

19
20 WHEREAS, employing an extension agent at the University of
21 Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
22 Resilience offers an efficient professional development solution
23 by performing outreach and creating a direct line of
24 agricultural best practices to local schools conducting Future
25 Farmers of America activities; and

26
27 WHEREAS, many land grant universities have successfully
28 deployed this model of establishing a pipeline from lower to
29 higher education to quickly transfer agricultural technology and
30 knowledge to teachers and students contemplating agricultural
31 careers; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of
34 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, as one of the best
35 tropical agriculture colleges in the world, is uniquely well-
36 suited to housing an extension agent to enable a high-quality
37 teacher workforce; now, therefore,

38
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2026, that the Department of Education and the University of
42 Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human



1 Resilience are requested to support the Department of
2 Education's Secondary Agricultural Education Program and the
3 Future Farmers of America program; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
7 Education, Superintendent of Education, and President of the
8 University of Hawaii System.
9
10
11

OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 12 2026

