

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
4 Education is requested to submit a report to the Legislature  
5 detailing the Department's implementation of the farm-to-school  
6 education and food procurement program, local food procurement,  
7 and alignment with Hawaii's regional kitchen investments and  
8 regional agricultural feasibility efforts; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
11 requested to include in the report the following information:  
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- 13 (1) Baseline local procurement and progress metrics,  
14 including:  
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16 (A) A summary of the Department of Education's  
17 current local food procurement levels, including  
18 available baseline data and trends over time; and  
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20 (B) Where feasible, a breakdown by complex area,  
21 island, or region, and by major product  
22 categories (e.g., produce, protein, value-added  
23 items);  
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25 (2) An assessment of regional kitchen alignment and  
26 operational readiness, including:  
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28 (A) How the Department's procurement operations and  
29 meal service plans align with the State's  
30 regional kitchen model, including any anticipated  
31 use of modular or distributed infrastructure such  
32 as mobile units, shared-use processing hubs, or  
33 aggregation points; and  
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35 (B) Key operational requirements necessary for  
36 utilizing regional kitchens, such as product  
37 specifications, packaging, minimum volumes,  
38 delivery frequency, food safety, and processing  
39 standards;  
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41 (3) The recommended procurement and contracting structure,  
42 including:



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- (A) A description of current contracting methods, vendor arrangements, and procurement policies that affect local purchasing; and
- (B) The identification of barriers and recommended administrative or statutory changes that would enable expanded participation by local producers, including small- and mid-sized farms;
- (4) The status of the farm-to-school education and food procurement program implementation, including:
  - (A) A summary of existing farm-to-school activities and partnerships; and
  - (B) A discussion of any current constraints affecting expansion--for example, staffing, procurement processes, supply reliability, food safety compliance, processing or aggregation limitations, or transportation;
- (5) An assessment of federal funding participation and United States Department of Agriculture farm-to-school grant planning, including:
  - (A) A description of the Department of Education's participation in the United States Department of Agriculture farm-to-school grant program during the prior grant cycle, including whether the Department of Education applied or served as a partner;
  - (B) If the Department of Education did not participate, an explanation any barriers to participation and what would be required for the Department of Education to participate in the next cycle; and
  - (C) A forward plan describing the Department of Education's intended approach for future grant 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



# S.C.R. NO. 113

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 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;  
6 Chairperson of the Board of Education; Superintendent of  
7 Education; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and  
8 Biosecurity; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
9 Tourism; and Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development  
10 Corporation.

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

