

MAR 10 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CERTAIN STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES, IN COORDINATION  
WITH 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 18-29) and households relying  
18 on federal nutrition assistance were also reported to have faced  
19 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, 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  
32 community-led food systems, and promote equitable access to  
33 nutritious and locally grown foods; and



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WHEREAS, food insecurity imposes serious consequences on health, dignity, community resilience, and long-term economic stability, including increased risk of diet-related illness, developmental and educational impairments for keiki, mental-health stresses, and higher public-health costs, making food security a matter of public welfare, equity, and justice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the House of Representatives concurring, that appropriate state agencies, including but not limited to the Hawaii Interagency Food Systems Working Group; County Agencies; Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Department of Transportation; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in coordination with community-based organizations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander leaders, food access organizations, food security coalitions, and other relevant stakeholders, are requested to develop a comprehensive statewide food security strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide food security strategy is requested to be data-driven, equity-focused, and at a minimum:

- (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's diverse communities, including economic, geographic, cultural, and programmatic barriers, and anticipate future food-security needs;
- (2) Analyze economic, climatic, and demographic trends affecting food availability, affordability, and access, including the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, and supply-chain disruptions;
- (3) Identify win-win strategies that both decrease food insecurity and boost local agricultural production;

- 1 (4) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies
- 2 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,
- 3 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including
- 4 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;
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- 6 (5) Include mechanisms for community participation in
- 7 food-system coordination, planning and decision-
- 8 making, with particular attention to Native Hawaiian,
- 9 Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other historically
- 10 underserved communities; and
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- 12 (6) Coordinate with existing county food-security and
- 13 food-system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment
- 14 with adopted county food plans and related planning
- 15 documents to support statewide coherence and effective
- 16 implementation; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participating state and county  
 19 agencies are requested to submit a report on the comprehensive  
 20 statewide food security strategy, any findings and  
 21 recommendations, and proposed implementation steps, including  
 22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
 23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 24 2027, to inform future legislation, appropriations, and policy  
 25 actions related to food security and the right to food  
 26 throughout the State; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 30 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,  
 31 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services;  
 32 Director of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of  
 33 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board  
 34 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive Director of the  
 35 Agribusiness Development Corporation; and Mayor of each county.

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OFFERED BY: Mike Gabbard

