
SENATE CONCURRENT 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
16

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



1 targeted strategies that honor cultural practices, support
2 community-led food systems, and promote equitable access to
3 nutritious and locally grown foods; and
4

5 WHEREAS, food insecurity imposes serious consequences on
6 health, dignity, community resilience, and long-term economic
7 stability, including increased risk of diet-related illness,
8 developmental and educational impairments for keiki,
9 mental-health stresses, and higher public-health costs, making
10 food security a matter of public welfare, equity, and justice;
11 now, therefore,
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Chairperson of
16 Agriculture and Biosecurity, or the Chairperson's designee, is
17 requested to collaborate with appropriate state and county
18 agencies, including but not limited to: The Hawaii Interagency
19 Food Systems Working Group; county agencies; Department of
20 Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Agribusiness
21 Development Corporation; Department of Human Services;
22 Department of Health; Department of Transportation; Hawaii
23 Emergency Management Agency; and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in
24 coordination with community-based organizations, Native Hawaiian
25 and Pacific Islander leaders, food access organizations, food
26 security coalitions, and other relevant stakeholders, to develop
27 a comprehensive statewide food security strategy; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the statewide food security
30 strategy is requested to be data-driven, equity-focused, and at
31 a minimum:
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- 33 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's
34 diverse communities, including individuals with
35 disabilities and access and functional needs, ensuring
36 that the assessment includes economic, geographic,
37 cultural, and programmatic barriers and anticipates
38 future food-security needs;
- 39
- 40 (2) For individuals with disabilities and access and
41 functional needs, align strategies with existing
42 programs that serve these populations, including the

1 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid
2 Home- and Community-Based Services, and aging network
3 supports, to reduce fragmentation and improve access;
4

5 (3) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies
6 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,
7 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including
8 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;
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10 (4) Align strategies and findings with the statutory
11 mandates established by Act 151, Session Laws of
12 Hawaii 2019; Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; and
13 Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021;
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15 (5) Coordinate with existing county food security and food
16 system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment with
17 adopted county food plans and related planning
18 documents to support statewide coherence and effective
19 implementation; and
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21 (6) Support community-driven solutions that promote
22 independence, dignity, and long-term stability for
23 individuals and families; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
26 and Biosecurity is requested to submit the comprehensive
27 statewide food security strategy to inform future legislation,
28 appropriations, and policy actions related to food security and
29 the right to food throughout the State, including any findings,
30 recommendations, proposed implementation steps, and any proposed
31 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
32 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
36 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,
37 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services;
38 Director of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of
39 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board
40 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive
41 Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Chair of



1 the Hawaii Interagency Food Systems Working Group; and Mayor of
2 each county.

