
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 affiliates statewide, approximately thirty-two percent of the
4 State's households experienced food insecurity, meaning they
5 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
9

10 WHEREAS, according to the report, thirty-four percent of
11 children in the State live in households with food insecurity,
12 an increase from prior reporting, indicating that more than one
13 in 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 between the ages of eighteen and
18 twenty-nine and households relying on federal nutrition
19 assistance were also reported to have faced particularly high
20 rates of food insecurity; and
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22 WHEREAS, food insecurity disproportionately impacts Native
23 Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other historically
24 marginalized communities in the State, who face higher rates of
25 poverty, limited access to healthy and culturally relevant
26 foods, and systemic barriers in both urban and rural areas; and
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28 WHEREAS, these populations often experience compounded
29 challenges from geographic isolation and intergenerational
30 inequities and are more vulnerable to the impacts of processed
31 foods, climate change, and economic disruptions, underscoring



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

5 WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities and access and
6 functional needs experience unique and often overlooked barriers
7 to food access, and therefore, it is essential that any plan to
8 address food security in the State consider the needs of these
9 populations; and
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11 WHEREAS, food insecurity imposes serious consequences on
12 health, dignity, community resilience, and long-term economic
13 stability, including increased risk of diet-related illness,
14 developmental and educational impairments for keiki,
15 mental-health stresses, and higher public-health costs, making
16 food security a matter of public welfare, equity, and justice;
17 now, therefore,
18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that appropriate state
22 agencies, including but not limited to the Interagency Food
23 Systems Working Group; appropriate county agencies; Department
24 of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Department of Business, Economic
25 Development and Tourism; Agribusiness Development Corporation;
26 Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Department
27 of Transportation; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; and
28 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in coordination with community-based
29 organizations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander leaders,
30 food access organizations, food security coalitions,
31 organizations representing individuals with disabilities and
32 access and functional needs, and other relevant stakeholders,
33 are requested to develop a comprehensive statewide food security
34 strategy; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive statewide
37 food security strategy is requested to be data-driven and
38 equity-focused, and, at a minimum:
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- 40 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's
41 diverse communities, including economic, geographic,



- 1 cultural, and programmatic barriers, and anticipate
2 future food-security needs;
- 3
- 4 (2) Analyze economic, climatic, and demographic trends
5 affecting food availability, affordability, and
6 access, including the impacts of climate change,
7 natural disasters, and supply-chain disruptions;
- 8
- 9 (3) Identify win-win strategies that decrease food
10 insecurity and boost local agricultural production;
- 11
- 12 (4) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies
13 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,
14 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including
15 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;
- 16
- 17 (5) Include mechanisms for community participation in
18 food-system coordination, planning, and decision-
19 making, with particular attention to Native Hawaiian,
20 Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other historically
21 underserved communities;
- 22
- 23 (6) (A) Consider the needs of individuals with
24 disabilities and access and functional needs;
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- 26 (B) Ensure alignment with existing programs that
27 serve these populations, including the
28 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
29 Medicaid home and community-based services, and
30 aging network supports, to reduce fragmentation
31 and improve access;
- 32
- 33 (C) Incorporate emergency preparedness and disaster
34 response considerations, recognizing that
35 individuals with disabilities are
36 disproportionately impacted by disruptions in
37 food access during emergencies; and
- 38
- 39 (D) Support community-driven solutions that promote
40 independence, dignity, and long-term stability
41 for individuals and families; and
42



1 (7) Coordinate with existing county food-security and
 2 food-system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment
 3 with adopted county food plans and related planning
 4 documents to support statewide coherence and effective
 5 implementation; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participating state and county
 8 agencies are requested to submit a report on the comprehensive
 9 statewide food security strategy, any findings and
 10 recommendations, and proposed implementation steps, including
 11 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 12 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 13 2027, to inform future legislation, appropriations, and policy
 14 actions related to food security throughout the State; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 18 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,
 19 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Human Services;
 20 Director of Health; Director of Transportation; Administrator of
 21 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Chairperson of the Board
 22 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive
 23 Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Executive
 24 Administrator of the State Council on Developmental
 25 Disabilities; Executive Director of the Disability and
 26 Communication Access Board; and Mayor of each county.

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