

MAR 10 2026

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON HAWAII'S FOOD MANUFACTURING  
STRENGTHS AND STRATEGIC MARKETS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's economy relies on small businesses, which  
2 account for 99.3 percent of businesses and 49.3 percent of  
3 employees across the State; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, a report on small businesses by the Economic  
6 Research Organization at the University of Hawaii recommended  
7 that the State create centralized networking systems to help  
8 small businesses build connections and collaborate on projects;  
9 launch initiatives in partnership with educational institutions  
10 for technical skills, training, leadership development, and  
11 employee retention strategies; and foster small business growth  
12 and sustainability by implementing policies from comparable  
13 cities, including business incubators, innovation hubs, and  
14 public-private partnerships; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Act 237, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, established  
17 the food and product innovation network, a statewide network of  
18 open-access food and value-added product development facilities  
19 to enable businesses to scale up new products, by supporting  
20 research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization;  
21 and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the food and product innovation network is modeled  
24 on New Zealand's public-private innovation network, which  
25 includes food innovation hubs that are strategically located and  
26 coordinated nationally to deliver complementary services across  
27 the nation; and  
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29 WHEREAS, similar to Hawaii, Singapore faces severe  
30 geographic and agricultural land constraints and has  
31 strategically shifted its food innovation focus toward  
32 developing high-value, technology-driven food products and



1 premium exports, recognizing that traditional volume-based  
2 agriculture is not economically viable in a resource-scarce  
3 environment; and  
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5 WHEREAS, shared-use scaling facilities, such as Singapore's  
6 FoodPlant, provide critical insight into how the State can  
7 utilize small-batch production infrastructure to mitigate  
8 prohibitive initial capital costs, thereby enabling businesses  
9 to systematically engineer products specifically for high-  
10 margin, premium consumer markets; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, Hawaii's ability to compete in global markets  
13 depends on its capacity to use similar coordinated and strategic  
14 planning to refine processes, scale production, and manufacture  
15 high-value, export-ready ingredients and goods; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the State's food and product innovation network  
18 uniquely integrates entrepreneurial education, workforce  
19 development, agricultural production, and value-added innovation  
20 into one coordinated system; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the successful implementation and growth of the  
23 food and product innovation network requires further examination  
24 of Hawaii's food manufacturing strengths and the identification  
25 of strategic markets for local high-value, premium products;  
26 now, therefore,  
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
31 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to  
32 conduct a study on Hawaii's food manufacturing strengths and  
33 strategic markets, including an assessment of the competitive  
34 advantages of Hawaii-made products and the specific high-value,  
35 premium products that the State should focus on manufacturing  
36 for export; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the study, the  
39 Department is requested to establish clear economic metrics  
40 defining what qualifies as a high-value product and to identify  
41 specific markets matching those metrics with specific product



1 categories that possess the highest probability of export  
2 success; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
5 include in the study a comprehensive cost-of-production  
6 analysis, factoring in Hawaii's high operational costs,  
7 including energy, labor, and imported ingredients, to  
8 mathematically determine the minimum profit margins required to  
9 make local food manufacturing economically viable; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
12 assess any logistical or transportation barriers that currently  
13 prevent entry into identified strategic markets and to propose  
14 state-level solutions; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
17 requested to use the findings of the study to update the  
18 curriculum at the Maui Food Innovation Center and Wahiawa Value-  
19 Added Product Development Center to ensure that local  
20 entrepreneurs are taught to engineer products specifically for  
21 high-value, export-oriented markets from the very beginning; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
24 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to collaborate  
25 with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Agribusiness  
26 Development Corporation and its innovation centers, and the  
27 University of Hawaii to ensure that the results of the study are  
28 integrated into existing workforce development and business  
29 incubation programs; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agribusiness Development  
32 Corporation is requested to utilize the findings of the study to  
33 guide the development and operation of its next-phase scaling  
34 facilities, ensuring that businesses developed through  
35 University of Hawaii programs are supported with the necessary  
36 infrastructure to manufacture high-value products and achieve  
37 sustainable economic growth; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on the study's findings,  
40 the Agribusiness Development Corporation and University of  
41 Hawaii are requested to collaborate to instill market discipline  
42 early in the food and product innovation network process,



1 teaching entrepreneurs which products are high-value and viable  
2 for export; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
5 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to propose policy  
6 recommendations on how the State can realign and prioritize  
7 existing economic development resources, grants, and funding  
8 mechanisms to specifically support businesses that manufacture  
9 the identified high-value, premium products; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
13 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of  
14 Agriculture and Biosecurity; President of the University of  
15 Hawaii; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the  
16 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Executive Director of the  
17 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director of the Maui Food  
18 Innovation Center; and Director of the Wahiawa Value-Added  
19 Product Development Center.  
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OFFERED BY: 

