

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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

6
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

12
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

17
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

24
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,

31
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
34 that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report



1 to the Legislature detailing the Department's implementation of
2 the farm-to-school education and food procurement program, local
3 food procurement, and alignment with Hawaii's regional kitchen
4 investments and regional agricultural feasibility efforts; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
7 requested to include in the report the following information:
8

9 (1) Baseline local procurement and progress metrics,
10 including:
11

12 (A) A summary of the Department of Education's
13 current local food procurement levels, including
14 available baseline data and trends over time; and
15

16 (B) Where feasible, a breakdown by complex area,
17 island, or region, and by major product
18 categories (e.g., produce, protein, value-added
19 items);
20

21 (2) An assessment of regional kitchen alignment and
22 operational readiness, including:
23

24 (A) How the Department's procurement operations and
25 meal service plans align with the State's
26 regional kitchen model, including any anticipated
27 use of modular or distributed infrastructure such
28 as mobile units, shared-use processing hubs, or
29 aggregation points; and
30

31 (B) Key operational requirements necessary for
32 utilizing regional kitchens, such as product
33 specifications, packaging, minimum volumes,
34 delivery frequency, food safety, and processing
35 standards;
36

37 (3) The recommended procurement and contracting structure,
38 including:
39

40 (A) A description of current contracting methods,
41 vendor arrangements, and procurement policies
42 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 timeline for approval, including coordination with partner agencies or applicants; and



1 (6) An action plan, timeline, and list of resource needs,
2 including:

3
4 (A) A near-term (up to one year) and mid-term (one to
5 three years) plan for increasing local
6 procurement and strengthening farm-to-school
7 implementation in coordination with regional
8 kitchen investments; and
9

10 (B) A list of any staffing, technical assistance,
11 systems modernization, or funding needed to
12 execute the plan, including recommendations for
13 coordination among state agencies, including the
14 Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity;
15 Agribusiness Development Corporation; and
16 Department of Business, Economic Development, and
17 Tourism; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the
20 Department of Education, in preparing the report, to consult
21 with relevant state agencies and stakeholders involved in
22 institutional procurement, regional kitchen planning, and
23 regional agricultural feasibility efforts to ensure that the
24 report reflects island-specific realities and offers flexibility
25 rather than a one-size-fits-all approach; and
26

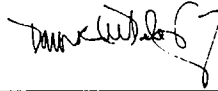
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature believes that a
28 clear report and implementation plan from the Department of
29 Education will help strengthen alignment between institutional
30 demand and upstream production readiness, maximize the impact of
31 public investment in regional kitchens, support equitable
32 participation by small- and mid-sized farms, and accelerate
33 progress toward improved food security and resilient neighbor
34 island economies; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
37 requested to submit its report, including any findings,
38 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no
39 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
40 Session of 2027; and
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
3 Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of
4 the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Director of Business,
5 Economic Development, and Tourism; and Executive Director of the
6 Agribusiness Development Corporation.

7
8
9 OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Little", is written over a horizontal line.