

MAR 10 2026

SENATE 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
16

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

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

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

- 27
28 (1) Assess barriers to food access across the State's
29 diverse communities, including economic, geographic,
30 cultural, and programmatic barriers, and anticipate
31 future food-security needs;
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33 (2) Analyze economic, climatic, and demographic trends
34 affecting food availability, affordability, and
35 access, including the impacts of climate change,
36 natural disasters, and supply-chain disruptions;
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38 (3) Identify win-win strategies that both decrease food
39 insecurity and boost local agricultural production;
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41 (4) Recommend policy, programmatic, and funding strategies
42 to reduce food costs and expand access to sufficient,



1 nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, including
2 traditional Native Hawaiian and locally grown foods;

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4 (5) Include mechanisms for community participation in
5 food-system coordination, planning and decision-
6 making, with particular attention to Native Hawaiian,
7 Pacific Islander, Filipino, and other historically
8 underserved communities; and

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10 (6) Coordinate with existing county food-security and
11 food-system resilience efforts, ensuring alignment
12 with adopted county food plans and related planning
13 documents to support statewide coherence and effective
14 implementation; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participating state and county
17 agencies are requested to submit a report on the comprehensive
18 statewide food security strategy, any findings and
19 recommendations, and proposed implementation steps, including
20 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
21 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
22 2027, to inform future legislation, appropriations, and policy
23 actions related to food security and the right to food
24 throughout the State; and

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

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36 OFFERED BY: Mike Gabbard

