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# 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 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  
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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  
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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  
32 the need for targeted strategies that honor cultural practices,



1 support community-led food systems, and promote equitable access  
2 to nutritious and locally grown foods; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities and access and  
5 functional needs experience unique and often overlooked barriers  
6 to food access, and therefore, it is essential that any plan to  
7 address food security in the State consider the needs of these  
8 populations; and

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

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
20 that appropriate state agencies, including but not limited to  
21 the Interagency Food Systems Working Group; appropriate county  
22 agencies; Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Department  
23 of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Agribusiness  
24 Development Corporation; Department of Human Services;  
25 Department of Health; Department of Transportation; Hawaii  
26 Emergency Management Agency; and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in  
27 coordination with community-based organizations, Native Hawaiian  
28 and Pacific Islander leaders, food access organizations, food  
29 security coalitions, organizations representing individuals with  
30 disabilities and access and functional needs, and other relevant  
31 stakeholders, are requested to develop a comprehensive statewide  
32 food security strategy; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive statewide  
35 food security strategy is requested to be data-driven and  
36 equity-focused, and, at a minimum:

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



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

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