
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the farm to school program connects schools with
2 local farms with the objectives of supporting local agriculture,
3 educating students about food cultivation, mitigating adverse
4 environmental impacts caused by transporting food across long
5 distances, and instilling healthy eating habits in students; and
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7 WHEREAS, the farm to school program contains two major
8 components: first, students receive education on nutrition, and
9 are taught the value of buying and eating local food, and
10 second, local food is served in school cafeterias, giving
11 students the choice to eat healthier and fresher produce; and
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13 WHEREAS, the National Farm to School Program reports that
14 some form of the farm to school program is currently operating
15 in 8,776 schools in forty different states, and in Hawaii, three
16 schools participate in the farm to school program, including
17 Aikahi Elementary, Moanalua Elementary, and Hakipuu learning
18 center, and one elementary school, Haiku Elementary, buys
19 produce from local farmers when it is available; and
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21 WHEREAS, these schools can serve as models for an expansion
22 of the farm to school program in public schools statewide; and
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24 WHEREAS, the benefits of serving locally produced food in
25 school cafeterias have been demonstrated by the success and
26 growth of the farm to school program in several states,
27 including California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts,
28 Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Oregon; and
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1 WHEREAS, studies conducted by the Center for Food and
2 Justice have found that students who ate from the salad bars
3 provided through the program received an average of fifty-eight
4 per cent more servings of fruits and vegetables than those
5 eating hot meals, and the farmers supplying produce gained an
6 additional \$1,700 in revenues per month on average; and
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8 WHEREAS, according to the Sustainable Living Institute of
9 Maui, Hawaii imports ninety per cent of its food, pays sixty-six
10 per cent more than the national average for food, and has, at
11 any given time, only seven days' worth of food in the State; and
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13 WHEREAS, statewide implementation of the farm to school
14 program would substantially expand the market for local farmers
15 and boost the local farming industry to relieve the State's
16 dependence on imported food; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
21 Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is
22 requested, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture,
23 Department of Education, and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation,
24 to convene a working group of stakeholders to consider the
25 feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in Hawaii's
26 public schools statewide; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's assessments
29 include, but not be limited to:
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- 31 (1) Student preferences and nutritional requirements;
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- 33 (2) Infrastructure needs and costs of implementing the
34 farm to school program statewide;
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- 36 (3) Financial aspects of implementing the program,
37 including price differentials between locally produced
38 and imported products;
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- 40 (4) Rules and potential compliance issues relating to
41 procurement and the federal school food programs; and
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- 43 (5) Development of an appropriate farm to school policy
44 statement; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Superintendent of Education, the Dean and Director of the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.