
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FEDERAL 2008 FARM BILL AMENDMENT TO THE RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is a large purchaser
2 of food products for Child Nutrition Programs including the
3 School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program,
4 Afterschool Snack Program, and Summer Food Service Program; and
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6 WHEREAS, as a large purchaser of food products, the
7 Department of Education can make a significant impact on the
8 local economy by purchasing produce from local farms; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's schoolchildren will benefit from the
11 purchase of local produce by consuming fresher, better tasting,
12 and more nutritious food; and
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14 WHEREAS, the procurement of produce from local farms can
15 also serve as a "market primer" by representing a stable source
16 of demand for local farmers, thereby creating the security
17 required for these farmers to invest in the capital necessary to
18 expand production capacity and access additional markets; and
19

20 WHEREAS, since the cost of agricultural production in
21 Hawaii is high compared to many states due to the high cost of
22 land coupled with the high cost of importing necessary
23 production supplies such as fuel, fertilizer, feed, and packing
24 materials, local farms have difficulty competing for Department
25 of Education Child Nutrition Program Contracts; and
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27 WHEREAS, the 2008 Farm Bill amended the National School
28 Lunch Act to allow states participating in federal Child
29 Nutrition Programs to apply a geographic preference for locally
30 grown or locally raised agricultural products; and
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32 WHEREAS, while the geographic preference may not inhibit
33 free and open competition, federal regulations do not prescribe
34 the number of preference points or maximum price percentage that



1 may be assigned to geographic preference as long as the
2 application of the geographic preference option leaves an
3 appropriate number of qualified firms to compete for a contract;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, the application of a geographic preference for
7 local farmers will help them bid competitively on Child
8 Nutrition Program contracts to the benefit of schoolchildren and
9 the State economy as a whole; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2011, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to
14 convene a working group to examine the federal 2008 Farm Bill
15 amendment to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of
19 the following members:
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- 21 (1) A representative from the Department of Agriculture
22 with knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs
23 procurement;
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- 25 (2) A representative from the Department of Education with
26 knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs procurement;
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- 28 (3) A representative from the State Procurement Office
29 with knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs
30 procurement;
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- 32 (4) A representative from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation;
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- 34 (5) A representative from the Hawaii School Garden
35 Network; and
36
- 37 (6) A representative from Ma'o Organic Farms; and
38

39 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group, at minimum:

- 2
- 3 (1) Determine an appropriate geographic preference
4 percentage rate that maintains fair competition to be
5 used by the Department of Education;
- 6
- 7 (2) Identify barriers preventing the Department of
8 Education from using local produce, including state
9 menu planning requirements, food and farm safety
10 certifications, seasonal availability, local industry
11 volatility, production limitations, and United States
12 Department of Agriculture contracting requirements and
13 procedures;
- 14
- 15 (3) Explore methods and mechanisms to reduce barriers to
16 the Department of Education's use of local produce in
17 Child Nutrition Programs;
- 18
- 19 (4) Identify ways to assist local farms to become more
20 competitive for the Department of Education
21 procurement process; and
- 22
- 23 (5) Identify existing successful partnerships between the
24 Department of Education and farms that encourage local
25 agriculture and use them as a model for other schools
26 and farms;

27
28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that working group is requested to
31 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
32 Legislature, Department of Agriculture, and Department of
33 Education no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
34 Regular Session of 2012; and



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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
37 to ensure that its findings and recommendations are disseminated
38 to school procurement officers and local farmers; and






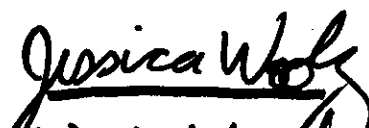



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Directors of Education and
3 Agriculture, and the State Procurement Office.
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OFFERED BY:


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Tom Ben



Kal N...
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Karen...

MAR 15 2011

