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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE HOW TO  
EXPAND SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.

1           WHEREAS, according to the National Survey of Children's  
2 Health, twenty-eight percent of school-aged children in Hawaii  
3 are either overweight or obese, and one in every three children  
4 born in the United States in 2000 will develop diabetes; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the 2003 Food Security Task Force report published  
7 by the State Office of Planning also noted that over nineteen  
8 percent of Hawaii residents live in food insecure households,  
9 and most of those households contain school-aged children; and  
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11           WHEREAS, many children in Hawaii have limited exposure to  
12 the wide range of healthy, local foods that are available and  
13 frequently have no idea where food comes from or how it is  
14 prepared, leaving them susceptible to the ubiquitous marketing  
15 and easy availability of "junk" food; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the addition of locally-produced fruits and  
18 vegetables in school meals would bring high quality, local  
19 produce to Hawaii's school children; and  
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21           WHEREAS, farm to school programs, such as planting and  
22 tending school gardens, have proven successful in supplying high  
23 quality food, as well as providing students with knowledge that  
24 enhances their educational experience and cultivates long-term  
25 healthy habits; and  
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27           WHEREAS, several successful alternative farm to school  
28 programs exist in Hawaii through public-private partnerships and  
29 strong support from local school administrators, food service  
30 managers, teachers, parents, and students; and  
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32           WHEREAS, these programs also rely upon external support  
33 from non-profit organizations, such as Kokua Hawai'i Foundation's



1 'AINA In Schools (Actively Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture  
2 In Schools), MA'O Organic Farms, The Kohala Center through its  
3 Hawai'i School Garden Hui, and the Ulupono Initiative; now,  
4 therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
9 Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative is requested to convene a  
10 School Gardens Task Force to determine how best to expand school  
11 gardens programs statewide; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force participants  
14 include representatives from:  
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- 16 (1) The Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative;
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- 18 (2) The Department of Agriculture;
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- 20 (3) The Department of Education;
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- 22 (4) The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
23 Resources at the University of Hawaii;
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- 25 (5) The University of Hawaii community colleges culinary  
26 arts programs;
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- 28 (6) Kokua Hawai'i Foundation;
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- 30 (7) Kohala Center Hawai'i Island School Garden Network;
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- 32 (8) Ulupono Initiative;
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- 34 (9) MA'O Organic Farms; and
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- 36 (10) Hawaii Association of Independent Schools; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force report to the  
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular  
40 Session of 2012 on its findings and recommendations, including  
41 any recommendations for legislation and funding; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
3 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Superintendent of  
4 Education, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
5 Resources at the University of Hawaii, Vice President for  
6 Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii System, Kokua  
7 Hawai'i Foundation, The Kohala Center, Ulupono Initiative, MA'O  
8 Organic Farms, and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

