

MAR 10 2011

SENATE 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
34 'AINA In Schools (Actively Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture
35 in Schools), MA'O Organic Farms, The Kohala Center through its



1 Hawai'i School Garden Hui, and the Ulupono Initiative; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
6 that the Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative is
7 requested to convene a School Gardens Task Force to determine
8 how best to expand school gardens programs statewide; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force participants
11 include representatives from the:

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13 (1) Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative;

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15 (2) Department of Agriculture;

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17 (3) Department of Education Office of Hawaii Child
18 Nutrition Programs;

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20 (4) University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture
21 and Human Resources;

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23 (5) University of Hawaii community colleges culinary arts
24 programs;

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26 (6) Kokua Hawai'i Foundation;

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28 (7) The Kohala Center Hawai'i Island School Garden Network;

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30 (8) Ulupono Initiative;

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32 (9) MA'O Organic Farms; and

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34 (10) Hawaii Association of Independent Schools; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force report to the
37 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular
38 Session of 2012 on its findings and recommendations, including
39 any recommendations for legislation and funding; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chairperson
43 of the Board of Agriculture, Superintendent of Education, Dean



1 of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and
2 Human Resources, Vice President for Community Colleges of the
3 University of Hawai'i System, Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, The
4 Kohala Center, Ulupono Initiative, MA'O Organic Farms, and Hawaii
5 Association of Independent Schools.
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OFFERED BY: Carol Furumasa

Melaine Jones

Dawn Waddell

Clementine Kichilo

Jill

Michelle

Michelle Sidani

John M.

