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## HOUSE CONCURRENT 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  
5

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  
9

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  
13

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  
26

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



1 WHEREAS, while the geographic preference may not inhibit  
2 free and open competition, federal regulations do not prescribe  
3 the number of preference points or maximum price percentage that  
4 may be assigned to geographic preference as long as the  
5 application of the geographic preference option leaves an  
6 appropriate number of qualified firms to compete for a contract;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the application of a geographic preference for  
10 local farmers will help them bid competitively on Child  
11 Nutrition Program contracts to the benefit of schoolchildren and  
12 the State economy as a whole; now, therefore,

13  
14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
16 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
17 Agriculture is requested to convene a working group to examine  
18 the federal 2008 Farm Bill amendment to the Richard B. Russell  
19 National School Lunch Act; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of  
22 the following members:

- 23  
24 (1) A representative from the Department of Agriculture  
25 with knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs  
26 procurement;  
27  
28 (2) A representative from the Department of Education with  
29 knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs procurement;  
30  
31 (3) A representative from the State Procurement Office  
32 with knowledge of Child Nutrition Programs  
33 procurement;  
34  
35 (4) A representative from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation;  
36  
37 (5) A representative from the Hawaii School Garden  
38 Network; and  
39  
40 (6) A representative from Ma'ō Organic Farms; and

41  
42 and  
43



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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

29

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  
35

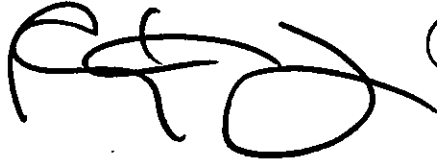
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
37 to ensure that its findings and recommendations are disseminated  
38 to school procurement officers and local farmers; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Directors of  
 3 Education and Agriculture, and the State Procurement Office.  
 4  
 5  
 6

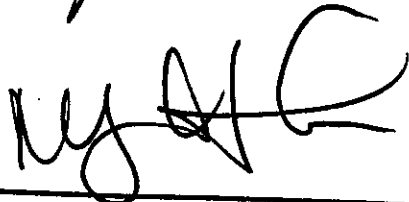
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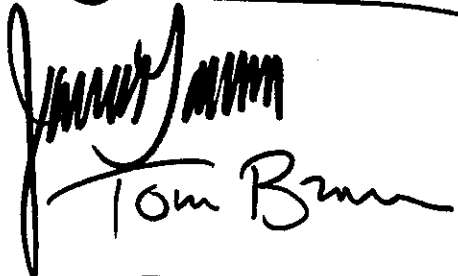


Mick Canale



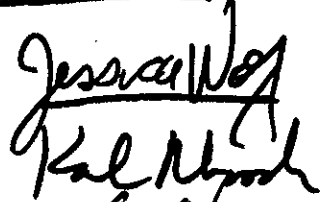


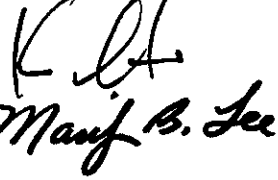
Rick Antonilla

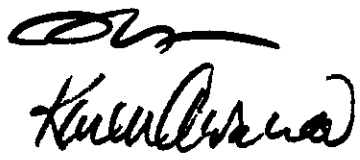
  
Tom Brun





  
Jessica Wolf  
Kal Lynch

  
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