
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE USE OF SCHOOL GARDENS STATEWIDE.

1 WHEREAS, many children in Hawaii have limited exposure to
2 the wide range of healthy, local foods that are available and
3 lack understanding as to where their food comes from or how it
4 is prepared; and

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6 WHEREAS, school gardens provide students with unique, real-
7 world opportunities to learn about topics ranging from nutrition
8 and health to agriculture, ecology, environmental stability, and
9 economics; and

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11 WHEREAS, school gardens provide students with improved meal
12 options by giving schools access to fresh local produce; and

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14 WHEREAS, farm to school programs, such as planting and
15 tending school gardens, have proven successful in supplying high
16 quality food, as well as providing students with knowledge that
17 enhances their educational experience and cultivates long-term
18 healthy habits; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2011, that the Department of Education is requested to
23 convene a task force to determine how best to expand and
24 strengthen the use of school gardens statewide; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
27 representatives from the:

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29 (1) Department of Education;
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31 (2) Department of Health;
32
33 (3) Department of Agriculture;

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- 1 (4) University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture
- 2 and Human Resources;
- 3
- 4 (5) University of Hawaii at Hilo;
- 5
- 6 (6) Maui Community College;
- 7
- 8 (7) Hawaii Island School Garden Network;
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- 10 (8) Kokua Hawaii Foundation;
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- 12 (9) Hawaii Association of Independent Schools;
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- 14 (10) Kauai School Garden Network; and
- 15
- 16 (11) Ulupono Initiative; and
- 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 19 develop a statewide curriculum strategy and professional
 20 development program for using school gardens to:

- 21
- 22 (1) Teach science, math, environmental, and nutritional
- 23 studies;
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- 25 (2) Improve ecoliteracy within the community; and
- 26
- 27 (3) Increase the physical activity and healthy habits of
- 28 students; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 31 collect comprehensive data from the school gardens on each
 32 island; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 35 report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations,
 36 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days
 37 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 40 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education;
 41 the Director of Health; the Chairperson of the Board of
 42 Agriculture; the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
 43 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; the Chancellor of the
 44 University of Hawaii at Hilo; the Vice President for Community



H.R. NO. 223

1 Colleges of the University of Hawaii System; the Program
2 Director of the Hawaii Island School Garden Network; the
3 Executive Director of the Kokua Hawaii Foundation; the Executive
4 Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools; the
5 School Garden Coordinator of the Kauai School Garden Network;
6 and the General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative.

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OFFERED BY:

Jessica Woolly
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[Signature]

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