HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATOR TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TWO-YEAR SCHOOL MENTORSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Hawaii farm to school program was established in 2015 for the purposes of improving student health, accelerating garden and farm-based education for public school students, and developing an educated agricultural workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii farm to school program is also intended to increase procurement of locally produced food by the State's public schools and other institutions, and expand the relationships between public schools and agricultural communities; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture as represented by the Farm to School Coordinator, and the Kohala Center have collaborated to fulfill the purposes of the farm to school program; and

WHEREAS, the farm to school program has begun work in the Kohala Complex Area on the island of Hawaii, including the development of a single kitchen to serve Kohala Elementary, Kohala Intermediate, and Kohala High Schools; and

WHEREAS, those involved with the work in Kohala have begun developing recipes that incorporate fresh locally produced food into the menus of the Kohala Complex Area schools; and

WHEREAS, students that are interested in joining the agricultural workforce may desire, but lack the opportunity, to obtain hands-on farming experience; and

WHEREAS, establishing a pilot program in which students are mentored by farmers will help fulfill the purposes for which the farm to school program was established; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, that the Farm to School Coordinator is urged to develop and implement a two-year school mentorship pilot program, commencing on July 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the pilot program shall be to educate and mentor middle- and high-school students who are interested in becoming members of the agriculture workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Farm to School Coordinator shall select pilot program mentors from members of the Hawaii Farm Bureau; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Farm to School Coordinator.

OFFERED BY:

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