
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH
TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR 'AINA PONO
REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES, OR BOTH FROM
FOOD HUBS.

1 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the
2 objectives and priority guidelines of the Hawaii State Planning
3 Act to encourage the purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and
4 food products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies;
5 and

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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Education serves over one
8 hundred thousand nutritionally-balanced, affordable meals a day
9 to over eighty-five percent of youth in Hawaii; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's School Food Services
12 Branch supports public schools statewide and ensures that its
13 meal programs comply with federal and state child nutrition
14 standards; and

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16 WHEREAS, farm-to-school activities can improve students'
17 physical activity, academic performance, school meal
18 participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and
19 other healthy behaviors, thereby reducing the risk of chronic
20 diseases and other health conditions later in life; and

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22 WHEREAS, farm-to school programs can also increase
23 educational opportunities and promote a school environment
24 filled with nutritious foods; and

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26 WHEREAS, a farm-to-school initiative was established within
27 the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to address the issues of
28 supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown
29 foods in state facilities, primarily educational institutions,



1 and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and
2 nutrition education in school curricula; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the farm-to-school initiative was later
5 incorporated into 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School ('Aina
6 Pono), which the School Food Services Branch formed to unite the
7 initiative with the Branch's health and nutrition education
8 programs, such as 'Aina Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens,
9 meal programs, menu planning, and school gardens; and

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11 WHEREAS, 'Aina Pono develops affordable and healthy menus
12 using fresh, local foods for students attending the Kohala
13 School Complex on the Island of Hawaii and, since 2018, Mililani
14 High, Mililani Uka Elementary, and Mililani Waena Elementary
15 schools on Oahu; and

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17 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawaii face many challenges on their
18 way to achieving economic sustainability; and

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20 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small- to mid-sized
21 farmers and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage
22 trucks, warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with
23 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,
24 and marketing support; and

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26 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the
27 State's objectives of economic development and greater self-
28 reliance; and

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30 WHEREAS, by helping local farmers become or remain
31 economically sustainable, food hubs increase local farmers'
32 ability to participate in larger agricultural markets, while
33 expanding consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and
34 value-added products; and

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36 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawaii's rural communities and
37 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to
38 work and live in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
42 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of

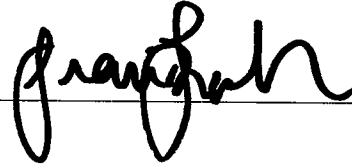


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1 Education's School Food Services Branch is urged to adopt an
2 addendum to its agreements for 'Aina Pono requiring the
3 procurement of goods, services, or both from food hubs; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim
7 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of
8 Agriculture, Acting Administrator of the State Procurement
9 Office, and Program Administrator of the Department of
10 Education's School Food Services Branch.
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OFFERED BY:



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