

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAI'I ASSOCIATION OF  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO EXPAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE  
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA AND 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT  
PATHWAYS TO AGRICULTURE CAREERS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii imports more than eighty-five percent of  
2 its food and is considered highly vulnerable in issues of food  
3 security; and

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5           WHEREAS, the State has since recognized this vulnerability  
6 and has initiated a major policy pivot towards food and  
7 agricultural self-sufficiency to lessen its reliance on imported  
8 food products; and

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10          WHEREAS, this transitional undertaking requires serious and  
11 careful investment into the local agricultural sector and  
12 related trades, particularly through the expansion of education  
13 and training opportunities for the next generation of farmers;  
14 and

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16          WHEREAS, the current lack of young farmers and ranchers  
17 with the experience, skills, and ambition required to undertake  
18 the rigorous and complex work of farming and ranching as a  
19 business poses a significant hurdle to vitalizing local  
20 agriculture; and

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22          WHEREAS, Future Farmers of America is a national nonprofit  
23 youth and student organization that promotes and supports  
24 agricultural education in middle and high school classrooms and  
25 currently has thirteen active chapters and over one hundred  
26 fifty members in Hawaii; and

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28          WHEREAS, 4-H is national network of youth organizations and  
29 is currently delivered by Cooperative Extension, a community of  
30 more than one hundred public universities across the nation,  
31 which provides children and teens with opportunities to complete



1 hands-on projects in agriculture and other areas; and in Hawaii,  
2 Cooperative Extension is a program of the University of Hawaii  
3 at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;  
4 and

5  
6 WHEREAS, agriculture education emphasizes and requires  
7 skill and knowledge in the areas of science, technology,  
8 engineering, mathematics, and the arts and can prepare students  
9 for careers in global agriculture, food and fiber production,  
10 and management of natural resources systems that offer  
11 competitive salaries; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Future Farmers of America and 4-H offer students  
14 pathways to careers in Hawaii with companies and agencies that  
15 often must resort to searching out-of-state for skilled workers  
16 and farmers due to the lack of local agricultural labor; now,  
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
22 Education and the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, in  
23 consultation with the University of Hawaii at Manoa Cooperative  
24 Extension, are urged to expand the revitalization of the Future  
25 Farmers of America and 4-H youth programs and reestablish and  
26 strengthen pathways for youth to find careers in agriculture;  
27 and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
31 Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the  
32 President of the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, and  
33 the Associate Dean and Associate Director for Cooperative  
34 Extension at the University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
35 Agriculture and Human Resources.

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38 OFFERED BY: 

