

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO MEET THE LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD GOALS ESTABLISHED IN ACTS 175 AND 176, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2021.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (Department) provides
2 an estimated 120,000 meals per day to Hawaii's keiki; and
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4 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021
5 (Act 175), the Department has a school food goal of thirty
6 percent of food served in public schools to consist of locally
7 sourced products by 2030; and
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9 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021
10 (Act 176), each principal department of the State that purchases
11 produce is required to ensure that a certain percentage of
12 produce purchased is fresh local agricultural products and local
13 value-added, processed, agricultural or food products, with a
14 fifty percent minimum by 2050; and
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16 WHEREAS, local farm to school and institution goals were
17 set years out to provide the Department with ample time to
18 coordinate with local producers to develop long-term commitments
19 and scale production through 2050 and beyond; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department's existing budget for the School
22 Food Services Program is estimated at \$100,000,000, with
23 \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 dedicated to food purchasing; and
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25 WHEREAS, according to the Department's 2022 report to the
26 Legislature, the Department encumbered ten percent of its total
27 food budget on local fresh and processed food for its meal
28 programs; and
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30 WHEREAS, according to the Department's 2023 report to the
31 Legislature, the Department encumbered 6.2 percent of its 2022



1 total food budget of \$50,500,000 on local fresh and processed
2 food for its meal programs; and

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4 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Agriculture, in
5 2021-2022, Hawaii fresh produce sales for vegetables, melons,
6 tropical fruits, eggs, bananas, papayas, and taro were
7 \$118,700,000; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department's local produce purchases during
10 the 2022 calendar year are equal to 0.82 percent of a sample of
11 Hawaii grown fresh produce sales, showing that local producers
12 are able to provide more than enough local products to meet our
13 local food goals; and

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15 WHEREAS, considering that the Department buys local produce
16 from large distributors that markup the price charged by the
17 farmer by an estimated 50 percent, it is likely that the
18 Department's local produce purchases in 2022 are actually 0.54
19 percent of the sample of Hawaii grown fresh produce sales that
20 can be verified with Department of Agriculture reports; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Department has learned many valuable lessons
23 with the Farm to School pilot programs in Kohala and Mililani,
24 demonstrating that school menu development, local food
25 purchasing, and scratch cooking can all provide healthy,
26 nutritious meals to our children while also responsibly saving
27 millions of dollars due to less waste and inefficiencies; and

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29 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department
30 cancelled farm to school contracts like the Hawaii Ulu
31 Cooperative and the 'Aina Pono Meal of the Month program; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Department's Farm to School Coordinator is an
34 important position to support connecting the Department with
35 local farmers and ranchers to increase local food procurement,
36 however that position was vacant for years; and

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38 WHEREAS, the Department has stated that they will seek a
39 central kitchen model on Oahu to achieve its local food
40 procurement meals goal; and

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1 WHEREAS, the centralized kitchen approach requires larger
2 volumes of food ingredients, volumes too large for the majority
3 of farmers, potentially putting local producers at a
4 disadvantage; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Department has yet to provide a strategic
7 evaluation and plan for a centralized kitchen on Oahu in
8 reaching its local food procurement goals as provided in Acts
9 175 and 176; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
13 that the Department of Education is requested to develop a
14 strategic plan to meet the locally sourced food goals
15 established in Acts 175 and 176; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested
18 to include the following:

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20 (1) The existing processes and systems in place relating
21 to school meals, including existing procurement
22 processes, contracts, and distribution systems;
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24 (2) An examination of how the Department currently works
25 with local farmers, ranchers, distributors, and food
26 service providers, including unique contract
27 provisions and any difficulties in fulfilling these
28 contracts;
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30 (3) An explanation of how the Department plans to scale up
31 procurement of locally grown food and how that fits
32 into a centralized kitchen model and decentralized
33 school kitchen model;
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35 (4) Any plans for ingredient shortages or instances when a
36 local food contractor is unable to fulfill the
37 contract;
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39 (5) How the operations and plans for the centralized
40 kitchen model will meet local food procurement goals,
41 including related impacts on school cafeteria
42 responsibilities;



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(6) The production costs for the development of a centralized kitchen; and

(7) Any information technology requirements for improved tracking, reporting, and data collection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is urged to fill the vacant Farm to School Coordinator Position; and

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

OFFERED BY: 