

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 15 , 2024

RE: S.C.R. No. 129
S.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 129, S.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN INTERAGENCY FOOD SYSTEMS PLAN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture establish a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an Interagency Food Systems Plan;
- (2) The Working Group submit the Plan and its recommendations for the implementation of the Plan to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025;
- (3) The Department provide any necessary administrative and staff support to the Working Group; and
- (4) The Working Group be dissolved on June 30, 2025.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Local Food Coalition; Ulupono Initiative; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and one individual.



Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that food imports encompass eighty-five percent of available food in the State, which leaves communities vulnerable to disasters that may alter or disturb the current food system. Your Committee further finds that the development of a sustainable food system would not only make its local food production more resilient, but also support "green" job creation, sustainable economic development, land stewardship, and climate change resiliency. This measure temporarily establishes a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to help establish a more sustainable food system for the State.

Your Committee notes testimony received by the Department of Agriculture stating that the Department lacks the capacity to meet unfunded mandates and that creating a working group without the participation of agricultural operators or organizations could be less effective than desired.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 129, S.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,



CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



HR 1503-24

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: SCR129 SD1		Committee Referral: AGR, FIN		Date: 04/12/2024	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
AGR Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)		✓			
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)		✓			
3. COCHRAN, Elle					✓
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.		✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.		✓			
6. WOODSON, Justin H.					✓
7. WARD, Gene					✓
TOTAL (7)		4			3
The recommendation is:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted			
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					