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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES RECOVERING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, food security is a fundamental human right and a  
2 critical component of public health and well-being; and  
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4           WHEREAS, Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge established a goal of  
5 increasing access to labor and land resources to support  
6 production, processing, distribution, and consumption of local  
7 food by 2030, with an overall target of twenty to thirty percent  
8 of food consumed in Hawaii being grown locally; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the State's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative set  
11 forth a target of doubling local food production by 2020; and  
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13           WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities recovering  
14 from natural disasters in Hawaii face significant challenges in  
15 accessing nutritious and affordable food, leading to food  
16 insecurity and related health disparities; and  
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18           WHEREAS, promoting local food production and enhancing food  
19 security in underserved areas can contribute to better health  
20 and well-being, economic security, and environmental  
21 sustainability; and  
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23           WHEREAS, developing a strategic plan to increase food  
24 security and food production in low-income communities and  
25 communities recovering from natural disasters requires a  
26 comprehensive approach that addresses issues related to food  
27 access, affordability, land use, agricultural production,  
28 education and vocational training programs, and community  
29 engagement; and  
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31           WHEREAS, strategic planning efforts should involve  
32 collaboration among government agencies, community



1 organizations, agricultural stakeholders, and other relevant  
2 entities to effectively leverage resources and expertise; and  
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4 WHEREAS, implementing targeted strategies tailored to the  
5 unique needs and priorities of different communities can  
6 maximize the impact of food security initiatives and ensure  
7 equitable access to nutritious food for all residents; and  
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9 WHEREAS, investing in programs and initiatives that support  
10 local food production, such as community gardens, urban farms,  
11 farmers' markets, and agricultural education programs, can  
12 strengthen food systems and reduce dependence on imported food;  
13 now, therefore,  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2024, that the Department of Agriculture is requested  
18 to develop a strategic plan to strengthen food security for low-  
19 income communities and communities recovering from natural  
20 disasters in Hawaii; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan is requested  
23 to:  
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- 25 (1) Assess the current status of food security and food  
26 production in low-income communities and communities  
27 recovering from natural disasters;  
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- 29 (2) Identify barriers and challenges to accessing locally  
30 produced and nutritious food in underserved areas;  
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- 32 (3) Develop strategies to expand access to affordable and  
33 locally sourced food options;  
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- 35 (4) Consider opportunities for increasing support of local  
36 farmers through economic incentives, technical  
37 assistance, capacity building programs, and other  
38 public investments;  
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- 40 (5) Evaluate the utility of community-based initiatives in  
41 addressing food insecurity for low-income areas,



1 including community gardens, urban farms, agricultural  
2 education endeavors, and farmers' markets;

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4 (6) Analyze ways of expanding access to agricultural  
5 education and vocational training programs related to  
6 local food production in low-income communities and  
7 communities recovering from natural disasters;

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9 (7) Assess the effectiveness of food security  
10 interventions, measurements, and adjustment strategies  
11 with regard to stakeholder feedback and preferred  
12 outcomes;

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14 (8) Determine the resources and funding that may be  
15 necessary to implement a strategic plan to enhance  
16 food security for low-income communities; and

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18 (9) Address the issue of food insecurity in disaster  
19 recovery areas, particularly in the Lahaina community  
20 following the August 2023 wildfires; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
23 is requested to submit its strategic plan, including any  
24 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
25 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant  
29 Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of  
30 Human Services; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
31 Tourism; and Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development  
32 Corporation.

