

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A  
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN  
INTERAGENCY FOOD SYSTEMS PLAN.

1           WHEREAS, food security is a critical issue in the State;  
2 and

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4           WHEREAS, the State imports eight-five percent of its food,  
5 making it vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, the State should be proactive in making its local  
8 food production more resilient; and

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10           WHEREAS, a sustainable food system is a food system in  
11 which producers, retailers, community members, non-governmental  
12 organizations, and government agencies partner to create a  
13 vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and  
14 sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the  
15 community; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, the development of a sustainable food system for  
18 the State would support "green" job creation, sustainable  
19 economic development, land stewardship, and climate change  
20 resiliency; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, a coordinated food systems plan lead by key  
23 stakeholders across the State is critical to develop a  
24 sustainable and equitable food economy; now, therefore,

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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
29 Agriculture is requested to establish a Sustainable Food Systems  
30 Working Group to develop an interagency food systems plan; and

31



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
2 Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee, and the Director of  
3 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's  
4 designee, are requested to serve as co-chairpersons of the  
5 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one member of the House of  
8 Representatives, to be selected by the Speaker of the House of  
9 Representatives, and one member of the Senate, to be selected by  
10 the President of the Senate, are requested to collaboratively  
11 select and invite one representative with knowledge in each of  
12 the following areas to serve as working group members:

- 13  
14 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;  
15  
16 (2) Social equity and food justice;  
17  
18 (3) Food system resilience;  
19  
20 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;  
21  
22 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;  
23  
24 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair  
25 labor; and  
26  
27 (7) Good food governance; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency food systems  
30 plan is requested to:

- 31  
32 (1) Be linked to the United Nations sustainable  
33 development goals for a more sustainable, resilient  
34 local food economy that enhances and sustains the  
35 environment, economic, and social health of the  
36 community;  
37  
38 (2) Identify a governance structure;  
39  
40 (3) Include a plan for implementation;  
41  
42 (4) Address the following:



- 1
- 2 (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- 3
- 4 (B) Social equity and food justice;
- 5
- 6 (C) Food system resilience;
- 7
- 8 (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 9
- 10 (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 11
- 12 (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and
- 13 fair labor; and
- 14
- 15 (G) Good food governance; and
- 16
- 17 (5) Incorporate any county food access plans; and
- 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems  
 20 Working Group is requested to submit the interagency food  
 21 systems plan and its recommendations for the implementation of  
 22 the plan, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature  
 23 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
 24 Session of 2025; and

25  
 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
 27 is requested to provide any necessary administrative support,  
 28 including support for the preparation of the interagency food  
 29 systems plan, to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and

30  
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems  
 32 Working Group is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2025; and

33  
 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 36 Board of Agriculture and Director of Business, Economic  
 37 Development, and Tourism.

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 40 OFFERED BY: 

