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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO STRENGTHEN FARM-TO-SCHOOL INITIATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawai'i currently imports nearly eighty-five to  
2 ninety percent of its food, making the State vulnerable to  
3 external supply chain disruptions; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, farm-to-school programs provide an opportunity to  
6 increase local food procurement and resilience, reduce Hawai'i's  
7 reliance on imported goods, and strengthen the State's  
8 agricultural economy; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, established  
11 a goal for at least thirty percent of school meal ingredients to  
12 be sourced locally by 2030; and  
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14 WHEREAS, significant barriers continue to stifle progress  
15 in meeting the local food procurement goal, including  
16 procurement regulations, distribution logistics, and  
17 inconsistent farmer-school partnerships; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, expanding local farm procurement in farm-to-school  
20 initiatives would support Hawai'i's small and medium-sized farms;  
21 and  
22

23 WHEREAS, prioritizing the procurement of locally grown  
24 Native Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, 'uala, and ulu, aligns with  
25 Hawai'i's commitment to food sovereignty, climate resilience, and  
26 indigenous agricultural practices; and  
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28 WHEREAS, increasing local farm procurement in schools would  
29 provide stable, institutional markets for Hawai'i farmers,  
30 thereby fostering economic growth and workforce development in  
31 the State; now, therefore,  
32



## H.R. NO. 100

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2025, that the Department of Education is urged to take  
4 immediate action to strengthen local farm-to-school initiatives;  
5 and

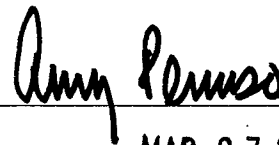
6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
8 requested to:

- 9  
10 (1) Streamline the procurement process to make it easier  
11 for small- and medium-scale farmers to sell to  
12 schools, including simplifying contracting  
13 requirements and increasing flexibility in sourcing  
14 policies;  
15  
16 (2) Develop a statewide database of local farms that are  
17 eligible and interested in supplying food for school  
18 meals to facilitate farm-to-school connections;  
19  
20 (3) Increase financial incentives for schools to purchase  
21 locally sourced food through grant programs,  
22 subsidies, or farm-to-school budget allocations; and  
23  
24 (4) Ensure culturally appropriate foods, such as kalo,  
25 'uala, and ulu, are incorporated into school meal  
26 programs; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
29 requested to submit a report on its progress, including any  
30 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
31 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of  
35 Education, and Chairperson of the Board of Education.  
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37  
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 07 2025

