
SENATE 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

3
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

9
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,

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
28 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to establish a
29 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group to develop an interagency
30 food systems plan; and

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
33 Agriculture, or the Chairperson's designee and the Director of



1 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's
2 designee, are requested to serve as co-chairpersons of the
3 Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems
6 Working Group include a member from the:
7

- 8 (1) Department of Health;
- 9
- 10 (2) Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
- 11
- 12 (3) Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one member of the House of
15 Representatives, to be selected by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, and one member of the Senate, to be selected by
17 the President of the Senate, are requested to collaboratively
18 select and invite one representative with knowledge in each of
19 the following areas to serve as working group members:
20

- 21 (1) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
- 22
- 23 (2) Social equity and food justice;
- 24
- 25 (3) Food system resilience;
- 26
- 27 (4) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
- 28
- 29 (5) Food at the center of a circular economy;
- 30
- 31 (6) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair
32 labor; and
- 33
- 34 (7) Good food governance; and
- 35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interagency food systems
37 plan is requested to:
38

- 39 (1) Be linked to the United Nations sustainable
40 development goals for a more sustainable, resilient
41 local food economy that enhances and sustains the



environment, economic, and social health of the community;

- (2) Identify a governance structure;
- (3) Include a plan for implementation;
- (4) Address the following:
 - (A) Food as a human right and healthy food for all;
 - (B) Social equity and food justice;
 - (C) Food system resilience;
 - (D) Agriculture and food system sustainability;
 - (E) Food at the center of a circular economy;
 - (F) Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor;
 - (G) Good food governance;
 - (H) Food waste;
 - (I) Sustainable fisheries;
 - (J) Food systems resilience; and
 - (K) Disaster preparation and response; and
- (5) Incorporate any county food access plans; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to provide any necessary administrative support,



1 including support for the preparation of the interagency food
2 systems plan, to the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Food Systems
5 Working Group is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2025; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
9 Agriculture; Director of Business, Economic Development, and
10 Tourism; Director of Health; Chief Executive Officer of the
11 Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Director of the Office of
12 Planning and Sustainable Development.

