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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO  
EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE.

1           WHEREAS, according to the National Survey of Children's  
2 Health, twenty-eight percent of school-aged children in Hawaii  
3 are either overweight or obese, and one in every three children  
4 born in the year 2000 in the United States will develop  
5 diabetes; and

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7           WHEREAS, the 2003 Food Security Task Force report published  
8 by the state Office of Planning noted that over nineteen percent  
9 of Hawaii residents live in food insecure households, most of  
10 which include school-aged children; and

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12           WHEREAS, many children in Hawaii have limited exposure to  
13 the wide range of locally produced healthy food available and do  
14 not know where the food they eat comes from or how their food  
15 was produced or prepared; and

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17           WHEREAS, this limited exposure and the mass availability of  
18 junk food leads to children being susceptible to the ubiquitous  
19 marketing of junk food; and

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21           WHEREAS, the addition of locally produced fruits and  
22 vegetables in school meals will expose Hawaii's school children  
23 to high quality, local produce; and

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25           WHEREAS, farm-to-school programs, such as planting and  
26 tending school gardens, have proven successful in supplying high  
27 quality food and provide students with knowledge to enhance  
28 their educational experience and cultivate long-term healthy  
29 eating habits; and

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31           WHEREAS, there are several successful alternative farm-to-  
32 school programs in Hawaii through public-private partnerships



1 and strong support from local school administrators, food  
2 service managers, teachers, parents, and students; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, these programs rely on external support from  
5 nonprofit organizations, such as the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation's  
6 'AINA In Schools (Actively Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture  
7 In Schools), MA'O Farms, The Kohala Center, Inc., through its  
8 Hawaii School Garden Hui, and the Ulupono Initiative LLC; now,  
9 therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
14 Health through its Healthy Hawaii Initiative is requested to  
15 convene a School Gardens Task Force to determine how best to  
16 expand a school garden program statewide; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of  
19 representatives from the following entities:

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- 21 (1) The Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative;
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- 23 (2) The Department of Agriculture;
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- 25 (3) The Department of Education;
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- 27 (4) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
28 Agriculture and Human Resources;
- 29
- 30 (5) The University of Hawaii community colleges culinary  
31 arts programs;
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- 33 (6) The Kokua Hawai'i Foundation;
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- 35 (7) The Kohala Center, Inc. Hawai'i Island School Garden  
36 Network;
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- 38 (8) The Ulupono Initiative LLC;
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- 40 (9) MA'O Farms; and
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- 42 (10) The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report to the  
2 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
3 the Regular Session of 2013 on its findings and recommendations,  
4 including any recommendations for legislation and funding, if  
5 necessary; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
9 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Superintendent of  
10 Education, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human  
11 Resources, Vice President for the Community Colleges of the  
12 University of Hawaii System, Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, The Kohala  
13 Center, Inc., Ulupono Initiative LLC, MA'O Farms, and Hawaii  
14 Association of Independent Schools.

