
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REEXAMINE THE MENU SCHEDULES FOR SCHOOL MEALS TO GIVE LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN EACH MEAL, IN KEEPING WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is a large purchaser
2 of food products for child nutrition programs, including the
3 school breakfast program, national school lunch program,
4 afterschool snack program, and summer food service program; and
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6 WHEREAS, as a large purchaser of food products, the
7 Department of Education can make a significant impact on the
8 local economy by purchasing produce from local farms; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's school children will benefit from the
11 purchase of local produce by consuming fresher, better tasting,
12 and more nutritious food; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 2015, Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui convened
15 the Hawaii Farm to School Advisory Group to develop a pathway
16 toward bringing fresh, local food to schools statewide; better
17 understand the existing barriers for food distributors and
18 farmers to respond to the Department of Education solicitations
19 for locally-grown produce, meat, and other food; solicit
20 feedback on solicitation document language, terms, and the
21 solicitation process; identify products currently available to
22 distributors or produced by local farmers that could be
23 incorporated into the Department of Education lunch program; and
24 reinforce the vision that Hawaii exists as a perpetual reminder
25 of finite resources, fertile lands, and communities who are
26 committed to the well-being of their keiki; and
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28 WHEREAS, the procurement of produce from local farms can
29 also serve as a "market primer" by representing a stable source



1 of demand for local farmers, thereby creating the security
2 required for these farmers to invest in the capital necessary to
3 expand production capacity and access additional markets; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture sets
6 forth nutritional requirements for school meals; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Education creates menus for
9 school meals with specific food items that schools must all
10 produce; and
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12 WHEREAS, while creating this type of strict menu is
13 beneficial when ordering food in bulk, if the specific product
14 is not produced or manufactured in Hawaii in sufficient and
15 available quantities or, through competitive bids, the costs of
16 a locally produced food are significantly higher, the Department
17 of Education purchases the food from mainland providers; and
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19 WHEREAS, flexibility is needed in the menu schedules to
20 allow local produce suppliers the opportunity to meet the
21 Department of Education's needs; and
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23 WHEREAS, for example, rather than a menu specifying "one
24 cup of broccoli", the menu could require "one cup of fresh
25 vegetables" instead; and
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27 WHEREAS, allowing flexibility in school menus that meet
28 United States Department of Agriculture standards will further
29 promote purchasing from and supporting local farms, while
30 providing schoolchildren with healthy meals; now, therefore,
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
35 Education is requested to reexamine the menu schedules for
36 school meals to give local produce suppliers the ability to
37 provide locally grown produce in each meal, in keeping with
38 United States Department of Agriculture standards; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
41 requested to look at incorporating more flexible menu



1 requirements that specify food groups, rather than specific
2 foods, especially in fresh produce requirements; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
6 of Education and Superintendent of Education.

