

FEB 22 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAI'I STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR THE 'AINA PONO HAWAI'I STATE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND/OR SERVICES FROM FOOD HUBS.

1 WHEREAS, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended the
2 objectives and policies of the Hawai'i State Planning Act to
3 encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i-grown food and food
4 products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Education serves over one
7 hundred thousand nutritionally balanced, affordable meals a day
8 to over eighty-five percent of the youth in Hawai'i. The
9 Department's School Food Services Branch supports public schools
10 statewide to ensure that their meal programs comply with federal
11 and state child nutrition standards; and
12

13 WHEREAS, farm-to-school activities can improve students'
14 physical activity, academic performance, school meal
15 participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and
16 other healthy behaviors, thereby reducing the risk of chronic
17 diseases and other health conditions later in life. Farm-to-
18 school programs also can increase educational opportunities and
19 support a nutritious school environment; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, spearheaded
22 by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, established a farm-to-
23 school program within the Department of Agriculture to address
24 the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of
25 Hawai'i-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education
26 facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more
27 agriculture and nutrition education in schools; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and Office of the
30 Lieutenant Governor rebranded the farm-to-school program into



S.C.R. NO. 38

1 the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program in 2018 to
2 unite the Department of Education School Food Services Branch's
3 existing health and nutrition education programs, such as 'Aina
4 Pono Harvest of the Month, test kitchens, meal programs, menu
5 planning, and school gardens; and

6
7 WHEREAS, this farm-to-school initiative, through 'Aina Pono,
8 develops affordable and healthy menus using fresh, local foods
9 for the students attending the Kohala School Complex on the Big
10 Island and, since 2018, Mililani High, Mililani Uka Elementary,
11 and Mililani Waena Elementary schools on O'ahu; and

12
13 WHEREAS, farmers in Hawai'i face many challenges on their
14 way to achieving economic sustainability; and

15
16 WHEREAS, food hubs provide these small to mid-sized farmers
17 and producers, who are often unable to afford or manage trucks,
18 warehouses, processing space, and storage spaces, with
19 facilities for aggregation, storage, processing, distribution,
20 and marketing support; and

21
22 WHEREAS, supporting local farmers is essential to the
23 economic development and self-reliance of the State; and

24
25 WHEREAS, by helping local farmers become or remain
26 economically sustainable, food hubs increase local farmers'
27 ability to participate in larger agricultural markets, while
28 increasing consumers' access to fresh, locally grown food and
29 value-added products; and

30
31 WHEREAS, food hubs support Hawai'i's rural communities and
32 present opportunities for new generations of local farmers to
33 work and live in Hawai'i; and

34
35 WHEREAS, increasing the procurement of local agricultural
36 products for schools promotes local farmers, encourages the
37 local agriculture industry, and supports government's goal of
38 doubling local food production and improving food security for
39 the entire State; now, therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 38

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i State
4 Department Of Education School Food Services Branch adopt an
5 addendum to its agreement for the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm
6 to School Program requiring the procurement of goods and/or
7 services from food hubs; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
11 Board of Agriculture, Administrator for the State Procurement
12 Office, Superintendent of the Department of Education, and
13 Director of the School Food Services Branch.

14
15
16 OFFERED BY:

