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# SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY  
FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, farm to school programs improve the connection  
2 that communities have with fresh, nutritious food and local  
3 farmers by changing food purchasing and education practices at  
4 schools and preschools; and

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6           WHEREAS, across the country, an increasing number of states  
7 have established farm to school programs; and

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9           WHEREAS, a farm to school program supports the local  
10 economy and enriches school children's bodies and minds by  
11 bringing locally grown or raised foods into school cafeterias;  
12 providing educational activities that emphasize food, farming,  
13 and nutrition; and offering hands-on learning activities  
14 including school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes;  
15 and

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17           WHEREAS, Washington State's Department of Agriculture  
18 created a tool kit to assist the implementation of a farm to  
19 school program; and

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21           WHEREAS, other states, including Ohio and Virginia, began  
22 farm to school programs with only one or two agricultural  
23 products; and

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25           WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture's recent Farm to School Census, school districts  
27 participating in farm to school programs purchased and served  
28 over \$385,000,000 in local food during the 2011-2012 school  
29 year, and more than half of the participating schools plan to  
30 increase local food purchases; and

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32           WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires flexibility  
33 in implementing a farm to school program due to the challenges  
34 presented by the scale of the Department's food service needs



1 and the requirement that farmers participating in the program be  
2 food safety certified; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are many challenges and successes that come  
5 with the implementation of a farm to school program, and a  
6 statewide, one-size-fits-all approach may delay the  
7 implementation process; and

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9 WHEREAS, allowing a single Department of Education Complex  
10 Area to implement a farm to school program, rather than  
11 requiring statewide implementation, will allow a Complex Area  
12 with the resources to implement a farm to school program to  
13 partner with its local farmers without delay; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
17 that the Department of Education is encouraged to establish the  
18 Hawaii Voluntary Farm to School Program to improve school  
19 children's access to nutritious foods in public educational  
20 institutions by providing Department of Education Complex Areas  
21 with the opportunity and option to purchase locally grown food  
22 for schools from food safety certified farms in the State; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a farmer providing products to  
25 a Department of Education Complex Area's farm to school program  
26 provide evidence that the farmer has an adequate supply of  
27 products to supply the Complex Area's farm to school program for  
28 one year; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a farmer providing products to  
31 a Department of Education Complex Area's farm to school program  
32 be food safety certified and subject to all applicable state and  
33 federal food safety regulations, inspections, and audits and  
34 maintain sufficient product liability insurance; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
38 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the  
39 Board of Agriculture.

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