
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that at least twenty
2 states have established farm to school programs and coordinator
3 positions to improve the health of children through the support
4 of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture,
5 and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and
6 snacks. A successful farm to school program can increase
7 students' physical activity, school meal participation, and
8 preference for fresh fruits and vegetables and improve academic
9 achievement and student behavior.

10 The legislature further finds that Oregon, a national
11 leader in the farm to school movement, has full-time farm to
12 school coordinators in Oregon's department of agriculture and
13 department of education. The coordinators work together and
14 with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the
15 procurement of locally grown foods for schools, encouraging the
16 students' consumption of locally grown foods.



1 The legislature additionally finds that farm to school
2 activities support a nutritious school food environment, and
3 more than eighty-five per cent of the youth in Hawaii attend
4 public schools. Students who participate in farm to school
5 activities are more likely to be familiar with, have a
6 preference for, and consume more fruits and vegetables at school
7 and at home. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age may
8 prevent the onset of chronic disease and other health conditions
9 later in life. The leading causes of death in Hawaii are heart
10 disease, cancer, and diabetes, illnesses that are often
11 associated with dietary behaviors. Investing in the health of
12 children will help them to achieve greater educational
13 attainment and lead to stronger communities. Moreover, Act 55,
14 Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, encourages the purchase and use of
15 Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents, businesses,
16 and governmental bodies. Increasing the procurement of local
17 agricultural products for schools has the added benefit of
18 supporting the State's agricultural economy by providing an
19 additional revenue source for local farmers.

20 The purpose of this Act is to create a farm to school
21 program in the department of agriculture and to provide funding



1 for a farm to school coordinator position to oversee the State's
2 farm to school program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§141- Hawaii farm to school program; farm to school
7 coordinator. (a) There is established within the department of
8 agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The purpose of the
9 farm to school program shall be to:

- 10 (1) Improve student health;
11 (2) Develop an educated agricultural workforce;
12 (3) Enrich the local food system through the support and
13 increase of local food procurement for the State's
14 public schools and other institutions;
15 (4) Accelerate garden and farm-based education for the
16 State's public school students; and
17 (5) Expand the relationships between public schools and
18 agricultural communities.

19 (b) The Hawaii farm to school program shall be headed by a
20 farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with
21 the appropriate stakeholders to address the issues of supply,



1 demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in
2 state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take
3 reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition
4 education in schools."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 for the establishment of full-time equivalent
10 (FTE) farm to school coordinator position in the
11 department of agriculture.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Farm to School Program; Hawaii Farm to School Coordinators; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator position. (SB376 SD2 HD1)

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