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# 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.

17           The legislature additionally finds that farm to school  
18 activities support a nutritious school food environment, and



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

18 The purpose of this Act is to create a farm to school  
19 program in the department of agriculture and to provide funding  
20 for a farm to school coordinator position to oversee the State's  
21 farm to school program.



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

4 "§141- Hawaii farm to school program; farm to school  
5 coordinator. (a) There is established within the department of  
6 agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The purpose of the  
7 farm to school program shall be to improve student health,  
8 develop an educated agricultural workforce, and enrich the local  
9 food system through the support and increase of local food  
10 procurement for the State's public schools and other  
11 institutions, the acceleration of garden and farm-based  
12 education for the State's students, and the expansion of the  
13 relationships between schools and agricultural communities.

14 (b) The Hawaii farm to school program shall be headed by a  
15 farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with  
16 the appropriate stakeholders to address the issues of supply,  
17 demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in  
18 state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take  
19 reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition  
20 education in schools."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
5 2016-2017 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0  
6 FTE) farm to school coordinator position in the department of  
7 agriculture.

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

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**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. Appropriates funds. Effective Date 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

