

JAN 25 2017

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
3 read as follows:

4 "§8- Farm to school month in Hawaii. The month of  
5 October shall be known and designated as "Farm to School Month  
6 in Hawaii" to promote public awareness of the state's farm to  
7 school initiative "connecting keiki to the 'āina" through  
8 coordinated activities and resources connecting schools and  
9 local farms with the objectives of serving healthy Hawaii-grown  
10 meals in school cafeterias; improving student nutrition;  
11 lowering childhood obesity; supporting local farmers; and  
12 exposing students to agriculture, nutrition, and educational  
13 opportunities through classroom activities, farm field trips,  
14 and school gardens. This month is not and shall not be  
15 construed to be a state holiday."

16 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 882

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INTRODUCED BY: *M. N. H.*  
BY REQUEST

**Report Title:**

Farm to School Month in Hawaii.

**Description:**

Designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii."

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

## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to align statewide and national farm to school celebration activities by designating October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii."

MEANS: Add a new section to Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: This bill will bring attention and coordinated awareness to farm to school programs around the State, including school gardens, Hawaii-grown purchasing efforts by state institutions, nutrition and health education, agricultural education in the classroom, and other activities connecting keiki to the 'āina. This bill will further align agricultural communities and state activities with the United States Department of Agriculture National Farm to School initiative.

October is "National Farm to School Month," designated by Congress in 2010 to recognize the importance of farm to school programs as a means to improve student nutrition, support local economics, and educate children about the origins of food.

A number of efforts have attempted to designate October Farm to School Month in Hawaii; however, no efforts have successfully codified a Farm to School Month in Hawaii in perpetuity. Governor Abercrombie proclaimed October 2013 as Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Month, and yearly legislative initiatives have been regularly introduced by various stakeholders.

The opportunity to celebrate locally sourced food and increase nutritional awareness can help decrease and prevent childhood obesity and avoid future health care costs for our State.

Establishing October as Farm to School Month in Hawaii supports Hawaii's farm to school initiatives, such as the Department of Agriculture's farm to school program, Department of Education's local purchasing initiatives, and Department of Health's school wellness activities, and provides an opportunity to raise awareness among our schools and communities through coordinated activities coinciding with Child and Youth Month in October.

Impact on the public: Raises awareness to ongoing farm to school activities in the State, such as garden and nutrition lessons, healthy fresh food choices, farm field trips, farmer and chef visits to classrooms, community events, and more. Reduces duplication of State efforts and better aligns national and statewide activities.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Department of Agriculture's farm to school program, established by Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, will coordinate statewide efforts focusing on October to celebrate farm to school activities. The Department of Agriculture will work with the Department of Education and Department of Health to coordinate school outreach initiatives.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION:

OTHER AFFECTED

AGENCIES:

Department of Education, Department of  
Health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: