

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1237

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 30, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 110, H.D. 1,
S.D. 2

RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.
ACT 137

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 30 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 137
H.B. NO. 110
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that supporting local
2 agriculture and strengthening local food systems are a matter of
3 statewide concern that can improve the resilience of Hawaii's
4 economy, environment, culture, and public health. The
5 legislature further finds that setting clear and ambitious
6 target goals for the purchase of locally grown food ensures that
7 the State plays its role in supporting local farmers and
8 guarantees that revenue derived from local produce remains in
9 the State and feeds local people. Act 175, Session Laws of
10 Hawaii 2021 (Act 175), established a programmatic goal for the
11 department of education to provide a minimum of thirty per cent
12 locally sourced food in Hawaii public school meals by 2030. In
13 addition, the legislature also passed Act 176, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2021, and Act 144, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which
15 established five-year benchmarks ensuring a certain percentage
16 of produce that is purchased by the department of education,
17 department of health, department of public safety (now the



1 department of corrections and rehabilitation), department of
2 defense, and university of Hawaii system is locally grown.

3 The legislature also finds that the existing goals set
4 different standards for various state departments.
5 Specifically, pursuant to Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021,
6 the programmatic goal for the department of education is to
7 locally source at least thirty per cent of food served in public
8 schools by 2030, which is higher than other state departments.

9 The legislature believes that the goals to provide
10 locally-sourced food should increase at a consistent and
11 predictable pace across all pertinent state departments to avoid
12 any confusion between departments; however, the legislature
13 recognizes that benchmark goals for certain departments should
14 be assessed on a more frequent basis than the department of
15 education.

16 The purpose of this Act is to resolve some of the
17 discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for
18 the department of education and those of other state entities.

19 SECTION 2. Section 27-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1 "(a) The department of education, department of health,
2 department of corrections and rehabilitation, department of
3 defense, and [~~University~~] university of Hawaii system shall each
4 ensure that a certain percentage of the food purchased for
5 public schools, youth campuses, public hospitals, public
6 prisons, and any purchases made directly by the [~~University~~]
7 university of Hawaii for use in its academic programs, as
8 applicable, is fresh local agricultural products and local
9 value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products, as
10 follows:

11 (1) By January 1, 2025, fresh local agricultural products
12 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or
13 food products shall constitute a minimum of ten per
14 cent of the total food purchased during each calendar
15 year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost;
16 provided that the department of education shall be
17 exempt from the requirements of this paragraph;

18 (2) By January 1, 2030, fresh local agricultural products
19 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or
20 food products shall constitute a minimum of eighteen
21 per cent of the total food purchased during each



1 calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total
2 food cost; provided that the department of education
3 shall be exempt from the requirements of this
4 paragraph and instead shall be subject to the
5 requirements in section 302A-405.6(a);

6 (3) By January 1, 2035, fresh local agricultural products
7 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or
8 food products shall constitute a minimum of twenty-six
9 per cent of the total food purchased during each
10 calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total
11 food cost; provided that the department of education
12 shall be exempt from the requirements of this
13 paragraph;

14 (4) By January 1, 2040, fresh local agricultural products
15 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or
16 food products shall constitute a minimum of
17 thirty-four per cent of the total food purchased
18 during each calendar year, as measured by the per cent
19 of total food cost;

20 (5) By January 1, 2045, fresh local agricultural products
21 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or



1 food products shall constitute a minimum of forty-two
2 per cent of the total food purchased during each
3 calendar year, as measured by the per cent of total
4 food cost; and

5 (6) By January 1, 2050, fresh local agricultural products
6 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or
7 food products shall constitute a minimum of fifty per
8 cent of the total food purchased during each calendar
9 year, as measured by the per cent of total food cost."

10 SECTION 3. Section 302A-405.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as
12 follows:

13 "[~~+~~]**§302A-405.6**[~~+~~] **Farm to school meals.** (a) [~~By 2030,~~
14 ~~the department shall meet the local farm to school meal goal~~
15 ~~that thirty per cent of food served in public schools shall~~
16 ~~consist of locally sourced products, as measured by the~~
17 ~~percentage of the total cost of food.] The department shall
18 ensure that by January 1, 2030, fresh local agricultural
19 products and local value-added processed, agricultural, or food
20 products shall constitute a minimum of thirty per cent of the~~



1 total food purchased during each calendar year, as measured by
2 the per cent of total food cost."

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 110
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

APPROVED this 30th day of May, 2025



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 110, HD 1, SD 2

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 24, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

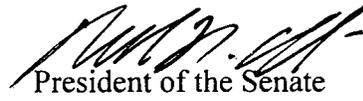


Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 8, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate