
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 175, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 2021, mandates that the department of education
3 serve school meals using thirty per cent locally sourced
4 products by 2030. However, according to the 2024 annual report
5 on farm-to-school meals, the percentage of locally sourced
6 products remains at 6.14 per cent. The report highlights the
7 challenges of increasing this percentage, including the effects
8 of invasive species, agricultural theft, labor shortages,
9 inadequate capital, and climate change.

10 The legislature acknowledges that many schools struggle
11 with outdated equipment and limited space to handle fresh food
12 products effectively. Therefore, the department of education
13 requires new and improved facilities such as regional kitchens
14 to achieve the mandated thirty per cent goal.

15 The legislature further finds that without a market
16 incentive, local agricultural producers will not be able to
17 scale up operations to meet the consistent production needs of



1 the State. A statewide system of regional kitchens provides an
2 opportunity to create broad market stimulation for local
3 agricultural products from across the State: from rice grown on
4 Kauai; pork products from Oahu; vegetables and fruits from Maui;
5 to beef and dairy from Hawaii island. This market stimulation
6 will provide the stability and revenues for local agriculture to
7 scale up and provide more food and more jobs to local residents.

8 The legislature notes that in order to efficiently and
9 effectively create regional kitchens across the State, the
10 department of education must identify and assess the appropriate
11 sites on each island. Site selection, assessment, planning, and
12 design must be conducted to best meet the needs of our students
13 and ensure accessibility for farmers and agricultural producers.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
15 funds to the department of education for statewide regional
16 kitchen expansion to fulfill its statutory mandate to provide
17 farm to school meals that consist of at least thirty per cent
18 locally sourced products.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sums of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and



1 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2026-2027 for the purposes of this Act; provided that the
3 sums appropriated shall be expended as follows:

4 (1) For fiscal year 2025-2026:

5 (A) \$ for additional design and
6 construction funds to service central, leeward,
7 and windward district complex areas in the city
8 and county of Honolulu through the expansion of
9 the current phase 1 Whitmore regional kitchen;

10 (B) \$ for a feasibility analysis for a
11 second Oahu site to service Honolulu district
12 complex areas in the city and county of Honolulu
13 to produce a minimum of forty thousand meals a
14 day;

15 (C) \$ for a feasibility analysis for two
16 sites to service the Hawaii district complex
17 areas in the county of Hawaii, with one site on
18 the east side of the island to produce a minimum
19 of twelve thousand meals a day and one site on
20 the west side of the island to produce a minimum
21 of fifteen thousand meals a day;



1 (D) \$ for a feasibility analysis for one
2 site to service the Maui district complex areas,
3 except Hana, Lanai, and Molokai, in the county of
4 Maui to produce a minimum of eighteen thousand
5 meals a day; and

6 (E) \$ for a feasibility analysis for one
7 site to service the Kauai district complex areas
8 to produce a minimum of twelve thousand meals a
9 day in the county of Kauai; and

10 (2) For fiscal year 2026-2027:

11 (A) \$ for further due diligence, planning,
12 design, and land acquisition for the additional
13 site and assessment of the receiving school
14 kitchens in the city and county of Honolulu;

15 (B) \$ for further due diligence, design,
16 and land acquisition for two sites and assessment
17 of the receiving school kitchens to service the
18 Hawaii district complex areas in the county of
19 Hawaii, with one site on the east side of the
20 island and one site on the west side of the
21 island;



1 (C) \$ for further planning, design, and
2 land acquisition for one site and assessment of
3 the receiving school kitchens to service the Maui
4 district complex areas in the county of Maui; and

5 (D) \$ for further planning, design, and
6 land acquisition for one site and assessment of
7 the receiving school kitchens to service the
8 Kauai district complex areas in the county of
9 Kauai.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of education for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOE; School Meals; Farm to School; Locally Sourced Products;
Regional Kitchens; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for regional kitchen expansion to fulfill the local farm-to-school meal goal requiring thirty per cent of the food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD1)

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

