
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that farm to school
2 programs benefit students in multiple ways. They provide
3 students with agricultural education, which contributes to
4 improved attendance, academic achievement, and behavior, while
5 also increasing opportunities for place-based experiential
6 learning, physical activity, and active participation in the
7 school meal program.

8 In addition, farm to school program activities support a
9 nutritious school food environment that encourages students to
10 make healthier food choices. With more than eighty-five per
11 cent of students in Hawaii attending public schools,
12 participation in farm to school activities increases students'
13 familiarity with local foods, access to fresh fruits and
14 vegetables, and the likelihood that students will make healthier
15 choices at home.

16 The legislature further finds that concrete steps have been
17 taken in recent years to develop and sustain a farm to school



1 program in the State. The Hawaii farm to school program was
2 established pursuant to Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015
3 (Act 218), within the department of agriculture to, among other
4 things, improve student health, develop an educated agricultural
5 workforce, and expand the relationships between public schools
6 and the agricultural communities. Act 10, Session Laws of
7 Hawaii 2017, established the month of October as "Farm to School
8 Month in Hawaii" to promote public awareness of the State's farm
9 to school initiative through coordinated activities and
10 resources connecting schools and local farms.

11 Since the passage of Act 218, the department of education,
12 in collaboration with the office of the lieutenant governor, the
13 department of agriculture, the University of Hawaii, and
14 community partners, established pilot programs using strategic
15 procurement adjustments to increase the supply of locally-grown
16 and raised foods in the school meal program.

17 The legislature finds that the continued growth and
18 sustainability of the Hawaii farm to school program will require
19 ongoing coordination between the department of agriculture and
20 the department of education.



1 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
2 education to establish a farm to school program to be managed by
3 department staff and, if the program is established, to require
4 the department of education to work with the farm to school
5 coordinator in the department of agriculture to grow and sustain
6 the Hawaii farm to school program.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Farm to school program. (a) The department may
11 establish a farm to school program to:

12 (1) Expand student opportunities for farm-based and school
13 garden education;

14 (2) Increase the procurement of locally-grown foods for
15 the school meal program; and

16 (3) Support coordination between the department and the
17 department of agriculture on farm to school activities
18 and initiatives.

19 (b) Any farm to school program established within the
20 department shall be managed by department staff, one of whom
21 shall be designated the department's farm to school coordinator,



1 who shall work in collaboration with the head of the Hawaii farm
2 to school program established within the department of
3 agriculture under section 141-11."

4 SECTION 3. Section 141-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "[+]§141-11[+] Hawaii farm to school program; farm to
7 school coordinator. (a) There is established within the
8 department of agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The
9 purpose of the 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 (c) The farm to school coordinator shall work in
6 collaboration with the department of education on any farm to
7 school program established by the department of education
8 pursuant to section 302A- ."

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$114,336 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
12 establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) farm to
13 school staff positions in the department of education.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 education for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Hawaii Farm to School Program; Department of Agriculture; Department of Education; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. Requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program. Establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education. Appropriates funds. (HB2156 HD1)

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