
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 affect positive changes for the State in the areas of
3 agriculture, education, and health and that state-level support
4 for farm to school programming is an essential investment for
5 Hawaii.

6 The legislature established the Hawaii farm to school
7 program and coordinator position in the Hawaii department of
8 agriculture with Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, to invest
9 in sourcing local food for state institutions and to increase
10 agriculture and nutrition education opportunities for students
11 such as school gardens, animal husbandry, farm field trips,
12 culinary experiences, and expanded agricultural career pathways.
13 In addition to the progress made in these areas, the Hawaii farm
14 to school program's efforts have increased the State's capacity
15 to meet other state objectives such as increasing student
16 health, increasing student academic achievement, increasing the
17 number of farmers, and increasing local food production.



1 However, projects funded through special funds can be difficult
2 to plan and administer; if the Hawaii farm to school program is
3 funded with general revenues, the program will be more stable
4 and can continue to increase the State's return on investment by
5 growing valuable farm to school programs and institutional
6 purchasing opportunities.

7 The legislature further finds that farm to school programs
8 enhance student education, connect students with agricultural
9 concepts and practices, improve childhood nutrition, and support
10 the needs of the whole child with numerous benefits during and
11 after the school day. Included in these benefits are increases
12 in academic achievement that result from place-based
13 experiential learning with physical activity, increases in
14 student participation in school meal programs and preference for
15 fresh fruits and vegetables contributing to improved student
16 nutritional habits and overall health, and improvements in
17 overall student behavior, school attendance, and family and
18 community engagement.

19 The legislature also finds that farm to school activities
20 support a nutritious school food environment in public schools,
21 which are attended by more than eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's



1 children and youth. Because farm to school activities
2 familiarize students with locally grown foods and increase
3 student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables at school and
4 at home, investing in farm to school programs means investing in
5 the health of children by helping to establish healthy behaviors
6 at an early age, which may prevent the onset of chronic diseases
7 that appear later in life including heart disease, cancer, and
8 diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in Hawaii.

9 The legislature further finds that farm to school programs
10 contribute to increasing local food production, which is a
11 critical component to food security as identified in the office
12 of planning's report, *Increased Food Security and Food Self-*
13 *Sufficiency Strategy*, and that institutional purchasing can
14 expand local supply with strategic procurement plans. Moreover,
15 Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, encourages the purchase and
16 use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents,
17 businesses, and governmental bodies. Yet, the procurement of
18 locally grown and raised foods has been difficult for state
19 entities who struggle to find adequate local supply while
20 complying with procurement laws, regulations, and procedures.
21 Although the Hawaii farm to school coordinator has been working



1 with stakeholders to address the issues of supply, demand,
2 procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state
3 facilities, Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for
4 schools and other state facilities need assistance to meet the
5 prerequisite demands of state contracting such as food safety
6 requirements to comply with the Food and Drug Administration's
7 Food Safety Modernization Act and good agricultural practices
8 certifications. Besides schools, the support of the Hawaii farm
9 to school program and investment in a farm to school grant pilot
10 program may increase local food production with increased local
11 purchasing efforts in Hawaii.

12 The legislature further finds that a number of other states
13 operate farm to school grant programs, including Florida,
14 Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oregon,
15 Pennsylvania, and Vermont. The goals of these grant programs
16 are to increase access to healthy local foods, provide increased
17 educational opportunities around agriculture, nutrition, and
18 food systems, and support and grow market opportunities for
19 local food producers and processors. A farm to school grant
20 pilot program will provide direct support to local entities for
21 the development of community-level farm to school programs



1 toward the attainment of these same goals for the people and
2 communities of Hawaii.

3 The purpose of this Act is to support and sustain the
4 progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a
5 three-year farm to school grant pilot program in the department
6 of agriculture.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
8 of agriculture a three-year farm to school grant pilot program.
9 The department of agriculture shall collaborate with the
10 department of education, department of health, public charter
11 schools, the University of Hawaii college of tropical
12 agriculture and human resources, and farm to school stakeholders
13 to provide grants to the following eligible entities:

- 14 (1) Public schools within the department of education;
15 (2) Public charter schools;
16 (3) Public funded early care and education centers;
17 (4) Nonprofit organizations;
18 (5) Soil and water conservation districts organized
19 pursuant to chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



(6) Farmers, ranchers, and other food vendors registered with the department of agriculture's Hawaii farm to school program.

(b) An eligible entity may apply to the department of agriculture for a grant to support:

(1) Procurement of foods produced or processed in the State that meet the Hawaii products preference requirements of section 103D-1002, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

(2) Food-based, agriculture-based, farm-based, and school garden-based educational and apprenticeship activities;

(3) Initiatives to sustain or expand existing farm to school programs; or

(4) Food safety and good agricultural practices training and implementation.

(c) An entity that receives a grant shall use the moneys for costs directly associated with the approved activities, including labor and professional fees for employees or contractors, professional development and relevant teacher



1 substitute costs, training expenses, travel costs, and necessary
2 supplies and equipment purchased for the activities.

3 (d) The department of agriculture shall collaborate with
4 the department of education, the department of health, and other
5 farm to school stakeholders to develop and adopt rules necessary
6 to implement the farm to school grant pilot program, including
7 but not limited to:

8 (1) Rules establishing the amounts of grants to be
9 awarded;

10 (2) Procedures for applying for grants; and

11 (3) Criteria for awarding grants, which shall include:

12 (A) A preference for entities that propose activities
13 that:

14 (i) Are well designed;

15 (ii) Promote healthy food activities;

16 (iii) Have clear educational objectives;

17 (iv) Involve parents and the community;

18 (v) Expand agricultural career pathways;

19 (vi) Increase local food production in

20 communities;



(vii) Are connected to existing farm to school
procurement activities; and

(viii) Are culturally relevant to the students
being served by the grant moneys;

(B) Among the grant recipients, representation of a
variety of school sizes and geographic locations;
and

(C) Among the selected grant recipients, service of a
high percentage of children who qualify for free
or reduced price school meals under the United
States Department of Agriculture's National
School Lunch Program.

SECTION 3. The Hawaii farm to school coordinator shall
submit a report to the legislature on the value and outcome of
the farm to school grant pilot project, and any recommendations
regarding the program no later than twenty days prior to the
convening of the regular session of 2021.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the



1 farm to school grant pilot program to provide grants to
2 recipients of the farm to school grant pilot program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
8 administrative costs of the farm to school grant pilot program,
9 including the hiring of a contractor to administer the program.

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

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
15 continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program, for one full-
16 time equivalent (1.0 FTE) farm to school coordinator position,
17 and administrative expenses for the Hawaii farm to school
18 program.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2150, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.



Report Title:

Agriculture; Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Grant Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants to participants in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Farm to School Coordinator to report to the Legislature. Makes appropriations. (HB2497 HD1)

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