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# 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 choices. With more than eighty-five per cent of  
11 students in Hawaii attending public schools, participation in  
12 farm to school activities increases students' familiarity with  
13 local foods and their access to fresh fruits and vegetables, as  
14 well as increases the likelihood that students will make  
15 healthier 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), to, among other things, improve student health,  
4 develop an educated agricultural workforce, and expand the  
5 relationship between public schools and the agricultural  
6 community. Act 10, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, established the  
7 month of October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii" to promote  
8 public awareness of the State's farm to school initiative  
9 through coordinated activities and resources connecting schools  
10 and local farms.

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

21 The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Require the department of education to establish a  
2 farm to school program;
- 3 (2) Require the farm to school coordinator under the  
4 department of agriculture to collaborate with any farm  
5 to school program established by the department of  
6 education; and
- 7 (3) Appropriate funds for two full-time equivalent (2.0  
8 FTE) farm to school staff positions within the  
9 department of education.

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

13 "§302A- Farm to school program. (a) The department  
14 shall establish a farm to school program to:

- 15 (1) Expand student opportunities for farm-based and school  
16 garden education;
- 17 (2) Increase the procurement of locally-grown foods for  
18 the school meal program; and
- 19 (3) Support coordination between the department and  
20 department of agriculture on farm to school activities  
21 and initiatives.



1        (b) Any farm to school program established within the  
2 department shall be managed by department staff, one of whom  
3 shall be designated the department's farm to school coordinator,  
4 who shall work in collaboration with the head of the Hawaii farm  
5 to school program established within the department of  
6 agriculture under section 141-11."

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

9        "[+]§141-11[+] Hawaii farm to school program; farm to  
10 school coordinator. (a) There is established within the  
11 department of agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The  
12 purpose of the farm to school program shall be to:

- 13        (1) Improve student health;  
14        (2) Develop an educated agricultural workforce;  
15        (3) Enrich the local food system through the support and  
16        increase of local food procurement for the State's  
17        public schools and other institutions;  
18        (4) Accelerate garden and farm-based education for the  
19        State's public school students; and  
20        (5) Expand the relationships between public schools and  
21        agricultural communities.



(b) The Hawaii farm to school program shall be headed by a farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders to address the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.

(c) The farm to school coordinator shall work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program established by the department of education pursuant to section 302A- ."

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

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

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

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Farm to School Program; Department of Education;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires 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 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) farm to school staff positions within the department of education. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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