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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 effect positive change 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, growing  
17 farmers, and increasing local food production. However,



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

7 The legislature finds that farm to school programs enhance  
8 student education, connect students with agricultural concepts  
9 and practices, improve childhood nutrition, and support the  
10 needs of the whole child with numerous benefits during and after  
11 the school day. Included in these benefits are increases in  
12 academic achievement that result from place-based experiential  
13 learning with physical activity, increases in student  
14 participation in school meal programs and preference for fresh  
15 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 finds that a number of other states operate  
13 farm to school grant programs, including but not limited to  
14 Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York,  
15 Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. The goals of these grant  
16 programs are to increase access to healthy local foods, provide  
17 increased educational opportunities around agriculture,  
18 nutrition, and food systems, and support and grow market  
19 opportunities for local food producers and processors. A farm  
20 to school grant pilot program will provide direct support to  
21 local entities for the development of community-level farm to



1 school programs toward the attainment of these same goals for  
2 the people and 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; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (c) An entity that receives a grant shall use the moneys  
18 for costs directly associated with the approved activities,  
19 including labor and professional fees for employees or  
20 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;



- 1 (vii) Are connected to existing farm to school
- 2 procurement activities; and
- 3 (viii) Are culturally relevant to the students
- 4 being served by the grant moneys;
- 5 (B) Among the grant recipients, representation of a
- 6 variety of school sizes and geographic locations;
- 7 and
- 8 (C) Among the selected grant recipients, service of a
- 9 high percentage of children who qualify for free
- 10 or reduced price school meals under the United
- 11 States Department of Agriculture's National
- 12 School Lunch Program.

13 SECTION 3. The Hawaii farm to school coordinator shall

14 submit a report to the legislature on the value and outcome of

15 the farm to school grant pilot project, and any recommendations

16 regarding the program, no later than twenty days prior to the

17 convening of the regular session of 2021.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general

19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much

20 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  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
8 the continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program, to be  
9 allocated as follows:

10 (1) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
11 farm to school coordinator position; and

12 (2) \$ for administrative expenses for the Hawaii  
13 farm to school program.

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

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, and  
17 shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.

18



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes an appropriation for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position. Repeals on 6/30/2021. (SD1)

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