

JAN 27 2021

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 the farm to school
2 program provides students with an agricultural education, which
3 contributes to improved attendance, academic achievement, and
4 behavior, while also increasing opportunities for place-based
5 experiential learning, physical activity, and active
6 participation in the school meal program.

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

15 The legislature further finds that concrete steps have been
16 taken in recent years to develop and sustain a farm to school
17 program in the State. The Hawaii farm to school program was



1 established pursuant to Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015
2 (Act 218), within the department of agriculture to, among other
3 things, improve student health, develop an educated agricultural
4 workforce, and expand the relationships between public schools
5 and the agricultural communities. In 2018, the legislature also
6 funded a position for the farm-to-school coordinator within the
7 office of the chairperson of the board of agriculture to assure
8 that programs and positions relating to the farm-to-school
9 program are aligned to properly execute, sustain, and grow the
10 program.

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 However, while the department of agriculture has two
18 positions appropriated for farm-to-school positions, the
19 department does not have a formal program. Aina Pono is the
20 department of education school food services branch's commitment
21 to student health, protecting the environment, and advancing



1 farm-to-school by purchasing fresh and local foods, greening
2 school cafeterias, reducing waste, and supporting school gardens
3 and nutrition, agriculture, health, and food education. In
4 2016, the board of education amended its school food services
5 policy to state that every public school shall provide food
6 services to students' nutritional needs at a minimum charge.
7 However, the program does not have a goal-oriented approach nor
8 indicators to successfully provide local meals to students.
9 Currently, it is estimated that three per cent of food served in
10 public schools is locally sourced.

11 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
12 education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen
13 per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced
14 by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

15 SECTION 2. Section 141-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "[+]§141-11[+] Hawaii farm to school program; farm to
18 school coordinator. (a) There is established within the
19 department of agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The
20 purpose of the farm to school program shall be to:

21 (1) Improve student health;



- 1 (2) Develop an educated agricultural workforce;
- 2 (3) Enrich the local food system through the support and
- 3 increase of local food procurement for the State's
- 4 public schools and other institutions;
- 5 (4) Accelerate garden and farm-based education for the
- 6 State's public school students; and
- 7 (5) Expand the relationships between public schools and
- 8 agricultural communities.

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

16 (c) The department of agriculture shall work with the
17 department of education to ensure that the department of
18 education shall meet the local farm to school meal goals of:

- 19 (1) Fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to
20 be locally sourced products by 2025; and



1 (2) Thirty per cent of food served in public schools to be
2 locally sourced products by 2030.

3 (d) For purposes of this section:

4 "Fresh local agricultural product" means fruits,
5 vegetables, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products,
6 livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products,
7 aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural
8 products one hundred per cent grown, raised, and harvested in
9 the State.

10 "Local value-added processed, agricultural, or food
11 product" shall be defined to mean at least fifty-one per cent of
12 the product's primary agricultural product shall be grown,
13 raised, and harvested in the State.

14 "Locally sourced product" means fresh local agricultural
15 product; or local value-added processed, agricultural, or food
16 product.

17 "Primary agricultural product" means the major agricultural
18 product in a processed or value-added agricultural, or food
19 product."



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Farm-to-school program. The department of
5 education shall work with the department of agriculture to
6 ensure that the department of education shall meet the local
7 farm to school meal goals of:

8 (1) Fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to
9 be locally sourced by 2025; and

10 (2) Thirty per cent of food served in public schools to be
11 locally sourced by 2030,

12 with fresh local agricultural products in accordance with the
13 farm to school program established in section 141-11, Hawaii
14 Revised Statutes."

15 SECTION 4. The department of education shall submit an
16 annual report of its findings and recommendations, including any
17 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
18 days beginning prior to the convening of the regular session of
19 2022.

20 The annual reports shall include but is not limited to:

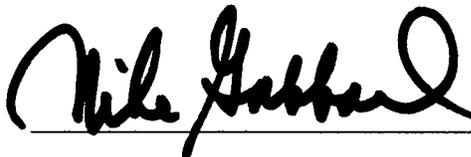


- 1 (1) Percentage of food served in public schools that are
- 2 locally sourced;
- 3 (2) Costs associated with program and any savings;
- 4 (3) List of large purchases of local products and vendors
- 5 of purchase;
- 6 (4) List of meals on the school menu, highlighting the
- 7 meals that contain the largest percentage of locally
- 8 sourced foods;
- 9 (5) Percentage of fresh food served versus the per cent of
- 10 processed food served;
- 11 (6) Description of training done to prepare cafeteria
- 12 staff for cooking from scratch; and
- 13 (7) Percentage of food purchased from the department of
- 14 education's largest distributors.

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

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1251

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Department of Education; Farm to School Program; Goals

Description:

Authorizes the department of education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

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

