
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 within the department of agriculture to, among other things,
3 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 ensure
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, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
12 the department of education, in collaboration with the office of
13 the lieutenant governor, the department of agriculture, the
14 university of Hawaii, and community partners established pilot
15 programs using strategic procurement adjustments to increase the
16 supply of locally-grown and raised foods in the school meal
17 program.

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



1 protecting the environment, and advancing farm to school by
 2 purchasing fresh and local foods, greening school cafeterias,
 3 reducing waste, and supporting school gardens and nutrition,
 4 agriculture, health, and food education. In 2016, the board of
 5 education amended its school food services policy to state that
 6 every public school shall provide food services that meet
 7 students' nutritional needs at a minimum charge. However, the
 8 program does not have a goal-oriented approach or indicators to
 9 successfully provide local meals to students. Currently, it is
 10 estimated that three per cent of food served in public schools
 11 is locally sourced.

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

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 17 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part II to be
 18 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

19 "§302A- Farm to school program. (a) The department
 20 shall work with the department of agriculture to ensure that the
 21 department meets the local farm to school meal goals of:



1 (1) Fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to
2 be locally sourced by 2025, as measured by the per
3 cent of the total food cost; and

4 (2) Thirty per cent of food served in public schools to be
5 locally sourced by 2030, as measured by the per cent
6 of the total food cost,
7 with fresh local agricultural products in accordance with the
8 farm to school program established in section 141-11.

9 (b) No later than twenty days before each regular session,
10 the department shall submit to the legislature an annual report
11 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
12 legislation and information relating to:

13 (1) Percentage of food served in public schools that are
14 locally sourced;

15 (2) Costs associated with, and any savings from, the farm
16 to school program established pursuant to this
17 section;

18 (3) List of large purchases of local products and vendors
19 of purchase;



- 1 (4) List of meals on each school's menu, highlighting the
- 2 meals that contain the largest percentage of locally
- 3 sourced foods;
- 4 (5) Percentage of fresh food served versus the percentage
- 5 of processed food served;
- 6 (6) Descriptions of any training provided to instruct
- 7 cafeteria staff on cooking from scratch; and
- 8 (7) Percentage of food purchased from the department's
- 9 largest distributors."

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

12 "~~{}~~**§141-11**~~{}~~ **Hawaii farm to school program; farm to**
 13 **school coordinator.** (a) There is established within the
 14 department of agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The
 15 purpose of the farm to school program shall be to:

- 16 (1) Improve student health;
- 17 (2) Develop an educated agricultural workforce;
- 18 (3) Enrich the local food system through the support and
- 19 increase of local food procurement for the State's
- 20 public schools and other institutions;



1 (4) Accelerate garden and farm-based education for the
2 State's public school students; and

3 (5) Expand the relationships between public schools and
4 agricultural communities.

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

12 (c) The department of agriculture shall work with the
13 department of education to ensure that the department of
14 education meets the local farm to school meal goals of:

15 (1) Fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to
16 comprise locally sourced products by 2025, as measured
17 by the per cent of the total cost of food; and

18 (2) Thirty per cent of food served in public schools to
19 comprise locally sourced products by 2030, as measured
20 by the per cent of the total cost of food.

21 (d) For the purposes of this section:



1 "Fresh local agricultural product" means fruits,
2 vegetables, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products,
3 livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products,
4 aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural
5 products that are one hundred per cent grown, raised, or
6 harvested in the State.

7 "Local value-added processed, agricultural, or food
8 product" means at least fifty-one per cent of the product's
9 primary agricultural product is grown, raised, and harvested in
10 the State.

11 "Locally sourced product" means fresh local agricultural
12 products; or local value-added processed, agricultural, or food
13 products.

14 "Primary agricultural product" means the major agricultural
15 product in a processed or value-added agricultural, or food
16 product."

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires 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. Requires the Department of Education to report to the Legislature. (SD2)

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