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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that establishing a  
2 school garden coordinator position placed within the department  
3 of education's office of curriculum and instructional design is  
4 needed to successfully implement the following purposes of the  
5 Hawaii farm to school program, as set forth by Act 175, Session  
6 Laws of Hawaii 2021:

- 7       (1) Improving student health;  
8       (2) Developing an educated agricultural workforce; and  
9       (3) Accelerating garden and farm-based education for  
10       public school students.

11       The legislature further finds that the increased use of  
12 learning gardens and farms on school campuses across the State  
13 plays a central role in protecting student health, recovering  
14 and advancing academic achievement, and strengthening social-  
15 emotional well-being. The farm to school program seeks to  
16 equitably improve learning, mental and physical health, and  
17 happiness for children and adults through the increased use of



1 outdoor educational spaces. The program also reduces the burden  
2 on indoor classrooms while providing fresh air, hands-on  
3 learning opportunities, and the health benefits associated with  
4 increased access to nature. A national study of nearly twenty  
5 thousand participants revealed that spending two or more hours  
6 per week in nature, either all at once or cumulatively, is  
7 definitively linked with better health and well-being.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a school  
9 garden coordinator position, within the department of  
10 education's office of curriculum and instructional design, to  
11 provide technical support and startup resources for schools  
12 interested in starting a school garden program.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for one  
16 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent school garden  
17 coordinator position to be placed within the department of  
18 education's office of curriculum and instructional design;  
19 provided that the funds may also be used for expenses related to  
20 the provision of technical support and startup resources for  
21 schools interested in starting a school garden program.



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

3       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

4



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; School Gardens; School Gardens  
Coordinator; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a school garden coordinator position within the  
department of education. Appropriates funds for the position  
and related expenses. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

