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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 set forth by Act 175, Session Laws  
6 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. This also reduces the burden on  
2 indoor classrooms while providing fresh air, hands-on learning  
3 opportunities, and the health benefits associated with increased  
4 access to nature. A national study of nearly twenty thousand  
5 participants revealed that spending two or more hours per week  
6 in nature, either all at once or cumulatively, is definitively  
7 linked with better health and well-being.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund the  
9 position of school garden coordinator, 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 developing a school garden program.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
16 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position of school  
17 garden coordinator 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 developing 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, 2022.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes a School Garden Coordinator position within the  
Department of Education. Makes an appropriation to fund the  
position and related expenses. (SD1)

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

