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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that school food programs  
2 play a critical role in improving the health of Hawaii's keiki  
3 by encouraging consumption of fresh, locally grown foods. The  
4 Hawaii farm-to-school program was established in 2015 to  
5 transition the State's school food systems toward locally grown  
6 food for the benefit of students, small businesses, local  
7 farmers, and the environment. From 2016 through 2018, the 'Āina  
8 Pono Executive Program oversaw two pilot projects in school  
9 cafeterias on Oahu and Hawaii island to evaluate the feasibility  
10 of increasing, and processes required to increase, the amount of  
11 fresh, local food on public school menus. The pilot projects  
12 were overwhelmingly successful, highlighting the need to make  
13 similar changes across the public school system.

14           The legislature further finds that implementing farm-to-  
15 school programs statewide requires investment in school  
16 cafeteria facilities and cafeteria staff training. The  
17 department of education's one hundred ninety-three production



1 kitchens and forty-four serving kitchens require increased  
2 investment to ensure proper maintenance and upgrades that will  
3 facilitate scratch cooking in school food services. In 2020, a  
4 kitchen assessment for all public schools on Kauai found that  
5 the estimated needs in kitchen equipment totaled approximately  
6 \$792,000 for eleven production sites. Given that Kauai school  
7 kitchens are smaller than most school kitchens in the State,  
8 these needs are likely somewhat greater for the islands of Oahu,  
9 Maui, and Hawaii.

10 Furthermore, training for cafeteria managers and staff is  
11 required in the areas of scratch cooking, recipe development and  
12 standardization, just-in-time food preparation, waste  
13 management, and recordkeeping. The 'Āina Pono pilot projects at  
14 the Kohala school complex and Mililani high school demonstrate  
15 the importance of adequate training. With two months of  
16 training, Kohala school complex kitchen staff went from serving  
17 processed food to one hundred per cent scratch-cooked food. The  
18 efforts of the cafeteria team led to fresh food purchases that  
19 increased from a baseline of twenty-seven per cent to ninety-two  
20 per cent. This increase coincided with more than \$30,000 in  
21 savings and increased student participation in school food



1 programs. Similarly, the 'Āina Pono project at Mililani high  
2 school resulted in a savings of \$106,658 over the course of one  
3 semester while increasing local and fresh food purchases,  
4 student participation, and staff morale.

5 The legislature finds that an investment in Hawaii's school  
6 cafeteria facilities and staff training is an upfront investment  
7 in the health of Hawaii's keiki.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the  
9 ability of school food programs to serve students fresh, locally  
10 grown foods by appropriating funds for school cafeteria upgrades  
11 and cafeteria staff training.

12 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
13 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$29,000,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
15 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2022-2023  
16 for school cafeteria upgrades.

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
2 cafeteria staff training.

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

5 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
6 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
7 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
8 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
9 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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# H.B. NO. 1864 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

School Food Programs; Cafeteria Upgrades; Cafeteria Staff Training; DOE; General Obligation Bonds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods. 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.*

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