
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that setting a target
2 goal of thirty per cent of food served in public schools to
3 consist of locally sourced products, as established pursuant to
4 Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is of great benefit for
5 the health of Hawaii's students. The legislature believes that
6 establishing a recognition program that incentivizes schools to
7 plan for and meet the farm to school meals goal will ensure that
8 the goal will be met by 2030.

9 The legislature further finds that the average meat and
10 dairy products served in schools are highly processed and
11 treated with antibiotics and growth hormones, which can impact
12 health outcomes. Additionally, the agricultural industry,
13 including produce, animals, and grain, generates approximately
14 one fourth of all greenhouse gas emissions.

15 The legislature additionally finds that a plant-based diet
16 has been shown to reduce the chance of developing diabetes,
17 cardiovascular disease, and cancers, among other things.



1 Offering a variety of diets, including vegetarian meals, can
2 also greatly increase demand for local greens and promote local
3 farming jobs and agriculture. Providing vegetarian meals to
4 students can promote not only a healthy lifestyle for the
5 State's youth but the making of environmentally conscious
6 personal decisions.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Authorize the department of education to establish a
9 recognition program to incentivize schools to submit
10 to the department a plan for the school to reach the
11 local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of
12 food served in the school to consist of locally
13 sourced products by 2030; and
- 14 (2) Require department of education high schools to
15 provide a plant-based option as a school meal.

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

19 "§302A- Farm to school meals; recognition program. (a)
20 The department may establish a recognition program to
21 incentivize individual department schools to submit to the



1 department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to
2 school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school
3 to consist of locally sourced products by 2030, established
4 pursuant to section 302A-405.6.

5 (b) The department shall establish guidelines for the
6 rewards recognition program, including what incentives to offer
7 and awards to grant to schools who commit to and reach the local
8 farm to school meal goals.

9 **§302A- School meals; plant-based options.** (a) The
10 department shall require all department high schools to provide
11 a plant-based meal as an option under the school meals program.

12 (b) Department high schools may establish a day within the
13 school week to provide only plant-based options for school
14 meals.

15 (c) Department high schools shall establish their own
16 guidelines, with the approval of the department, that
17 incorporate nutritional guidelines, menu planning, and staffing
18 to carry out the purposes of this section.

19 (d) For the purposes of this section, "plant-based meal"
20 means a meal consisting of all minimally processed fruits,
21 vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs, and



1 spices and excludes all animal products, including red meat,
2 poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy products."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Education; Farm to School Meals; Recognition Program; Department High Schools; School Meals; Plant-based Option

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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