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# 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 plant-based meals, can  
2 also greatly increase demand for local greens and promote local  
3 farming jobs and agriculture. Providing plant-based meals to  
4 students can promote not only a healthy lifestyle for the  
5 State's youth but encourage students to make environmentally  
6 conscious personal decisions.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

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

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



1            "§302A- Farm to school meals; recognition program. (a)

2    The department shall establish a recognition program to  
3    incentivize individual department schools to submit to the  
4    department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to  
5    school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school  
6    to consist of locally sourced products by 2030, established  
7    pursuant to section 302A-405.6.

8            (b) The department shall establish guidelines for the  
9    recognition program, including what incentives to offer and  
10   awards to grant to schools who commit to and reach the local  
11   farm to school meal goals; provided that the department may  
12   accept donations and contributions made by private individuals  
13   or organizations for the recognition program."

14           SECTION 3. (a) No later than the 2025-2026 school year,  
15   the department of education may establish a plant-based meal  
16   pilot program at Mililani high school to provide a plant-based  
17   meal as an option under the school meals program.

18           (b) As part of the pilot program, the department of  
19   education may establish a day within the school week at Mililani  
20   high school to provide plant-based options for school meals.



1 (c) If the department of education establishes a plant-  
2 based meal pilot program pursuant to subsection (a), the  
3 department shall:

4 (1) Submit an interim report on the progress of the plant-  
5 based meal pilot program to the legislature no later  
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
7 session of 2026; and

8 (2) Submit a final report on the plant-based meal pilot  
9 program, including any findings, recommendations, and  
10 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
12 session of 2027.

13 (d) Any plant-based meal pilot program established  
14 pursuant to subsection (a) shall cease to exist on June 30,  
15 2026.

16 (e) For the purposes of this section, "plant-based meal"  
17 means a meal consisting of all minimally processed fruits,  
18 vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs, and  
19 spices and that excludes all animal products, including red  
20 meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and dairy products.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Requires 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. Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

