
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii child
2 nutrition programs is the state agency link between the United
3 States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and
4 local program operators. The agency conducts audits, provides
5 technical assistance, and disburses federal funds while ensuring
6 the programs are managed according to federal requirements.

7 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii child
8 nutrition programs has a critical role to play in ensuring the
9 department of education reaches the programmatic goal
10 established in Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, to provide
11 at least thirty per cent locally grown food in the State's
12 public schools by 2030. However, additional resources and staff
13 dedicated to farm-to-school connections are needed to ensure the
14 department of education meets its "30 by 30" goal.

15 The legislature finds that the Hawaii child nutrition
16 programs is an agency attached to the department of education
17 under the board of education. However, it is critical from an



1 ethical standpoint for the Hawaii child nutrition programs to be
2 independent of the department of education's school food
3 services branch to prevent its preferential treatment. The
4 Hawaii child nutrition programs office should be moved from the
5 department of education to the office of the auditor to allow
6 the Hawaii child nutrition programs to conduct compliance audits
7 and fiscal reviews without interference from the school food
8 services branch.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Establish the Hawaii child nutrition programs in the
11 office of the auditor;
- 12 (2) Fund grant based programs to be administered through
13 the Hawaii child nutrition programs; and
- 14 (3) Establish three permanent full-time equivalent (3.0
15 FTE) within the Hawaii child nutrition programs to
16 support the State's programmatic goals.

17 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
18 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
19 as follows:

20 **"CHAPTER**

21 **HAWAII CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**



1 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, "agency"
2 means the Hawaii child nutrition programs agency.

3 § -2 **Hawaii child nutrition programs agency; purpose.**

4 (a) There is established within the office of the auditor for
5 administrative purposes only, the Hawaii child nutrition
6 programs agency. The agency shall serve as the state link
7 between the United States Department of Agriculture Food and
8 Nutrition Services and local program operators.

9 (b) The purpose of the Hawaii child nutrition programs
10 agency is to conduct audits, provide technical assistance,
11 disburse federal funds to local program operators, and
12 administer and award grants to promote the purchasing of locally
13 grown foods by the State's public schools.

14 § -3 **Positions.** (a) The agency shall be headed by a
15 farm to school coordinator who shall execute, administer, and
16 award grants to develop farm to school programs to purchase
17 local goods for consumption in school food programs; purchase
18 cafeteria equipment and provide facilities upgrades for school
19 production kitchens; train school cafeteria staff; and develop
20 school garden cafeteria curriculum.



1 (b) The agency shall employ two permanent full-time
2 equivalent positions as follows:

3 (1) A Hawaii child nutrition program accountant who shall
4 disburse funds to grantees; review quarterly reports
5 submitted by grantees for compliance; provide
6 technical assistance to schools related to United
7 States Department of Agriculture resource management
8 and procurement regulations, if appropriate; and
9 provide an annual accounting report to the legislature
10 on the disbursement of funds to the school complex
11 areas; and

12 (2) A farm to school farmer support position to assist the
13 farm to school coordinator; provide technical
14 assistance to farmers and producers to navigate the
15 procurement process to comply with United States
16 Department of Agriculture regulations; engage more
17 small farmers and producers to conduct businesses with
18 schools; and assist farmer and producers in improving
19 channels of communication with schools.



1 **§ -4 Grants.** (a) The agency shall administer a grant
2 program to support the State's public schools by funding the
3 initiatives described in subsection (c).

4 (b) Funding shall be used for the purposes described in
5 subsection (c); provided that no more than two per cent of the
6 funding retained by the grantee may be used for administration
7 costs. Funding retained by project partners for data
8 collection, outreach, and training may not exceed one per cent
9 for each project partner.

10 (c) Grants shall be awarded to:

- 11 (1) Fund purchase of minimally processed local food
12 products;
- 13 (2) Fund equipment to increase the use and preparation of
14 minimally processed local foods in school meals;
- 15 (3) Fund professional development to educate children
16 about good nutrition and farm-to-school connections;
17 and
- 18 (4) Fund technical assistance to increase participation in
19 federal child nutrition programs.

20 (d) In determining recipients for grants related to farm-
21 to-school education and increase in participation in federal



1 child nutrition programs, the agency shall prefer grantees who
2 propose educational activities that meet one or more of the
3 following:

- 4 (1) Promotion of healthy food activities;
- 5 (2) Clear educational objectives;
- 6 (3) Involvement of parents or the community;
- 7 (4) Connect to a school or child care center's farm-to-
8 school or farm-to-early-child-care procurement
9 activities; and
- 10 (5) Marketing and promoting the program, which will lead
11 to increased pupil knowledge and consumption of
12 Hawaii-grown products.

13 § -5 **Reports to the legislature.** The agency shall
14 submit a report on the disbursement of funds awarded pursuant to
15 section -4 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
16 to the convening of each regular session."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 to fund grants administered by the Hawaii child
2 nutrition programs agency for the 2023-2024 school year.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
4 the auditor for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 for the establishment of:

- 10 (1) One permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) farm to
11 school coordinator;
- 12 (2) One permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Hawaii
13 child nutrition programs accountant; and
- 14 (3) One permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) farm to
15 school farmer support position.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
17 the auditor for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

19



H.B. NO. 249

INTRODUCED BY: Amy Paruss

JAN 19 2023



H.B. NO. 249

Report Title:

Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs; Grants; Positions;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii child nutrition programs agency in the office of the auditor. Establishes a grant program to support the funding of certain initiatives for the State's public schools. Establishes three permanent full-time equivalent positions (3.0 FTE). Appropriates funds.

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