

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO LOCAL PURCHASING PREFERENCE.

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

1       SECTION 1. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4       "S27-       Contracts for natural landscaping materials;  
5 percentage to be from within the State. (a) The department of  
6 education, department of health, department of corrections and  
7 rehabilitation, department of defense, department of accounting  
8 and general services, and university of Hawaii system shall each  
9 ensure that a certain percentage of the natural landscaping  
10 materials purchased for public schools, youth campuses, public  
11 hospitals, public prisons, and public facilities and any  
12 purchases made directly by the university of Hawaii for use in  
13 its academic programs is as follows:

14       (1) By January 1, 2028, local natural landscaping  
15       materials shall constitute a minimum of ten per cent  
16       of the total natural landscaping materials purchased



1           during each year, as measured by the per cent of total  
2           natural landscaping materials cost;

3           (2) By January 1, 2030, local natural landscaping  
4           materials shall constitute a minimum of twenty per  
5           cent of the total natural landscaping materials  
6           purchased during each year, as measured by the per  
7           cent of total natural landscaping materials cost; and

8           (3) By January 1, 2032, local natural landscaping  
9           materials shall constitute a minimum of thirty per  
10           cent of the total natural landscaping materials  
11           purchased during each year, as measured by the per  
12           cent of total natural landscaping materials cost.

13           (b) The department of education, department of health,  
14           department of corrections and rehabilitation, department of  
15           defense, department of accounting and general services, and  
16           university of Hawaii system shall each submit a report to the  
17           legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
18           each regular session on progress made toward meeting the  
19           benchmarks described in subsection (a), including:

20           (1) The total cost of natural landscaping materials during  
21           the year preceding that regular session;



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1        (2) The percentage of the total cost of natural  
2        landscaping materials purchased during the year  
3        preceding that regular session, accounted for by the  
4        total cost of local natural landscaping materials  
5        purchased; and

6        (3) If the department or university of Hawaii system did  
7        not meet the relevant benchmark described in  
8        subsection (a), an explanation of why the department  
9        or university of Hawaii system did not meet that  
10       benchmark.

11       The report may be combined with the report required under  
12       section 27-8(b).

13       (c) As used in this section:

14       "Local natural landscaping materials" means natural  
15       landscaping materials, of which more than fifty per cent of the  
16       wholesale value is added by manufacture, processing, production,  
17       or harvesting in Hawaii.

18       "Natural landscaping materials" means materials used for  
19       landscaping, of which at least fifty per cent by weight is  
20       derived from previously living matter. "Natural landscaping  
21       materials" includes wood mulch and compost.



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1 "Year" shall have the same meaning as in section 27-8."

2 SECTION 2. Section 27-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **"§27-8 Contracts for food; percentage to be grown within**  
5 **the State.** (a) The department of education, department of  
6 health, department of corrections and rehabilitation, department  
7 of defense, and university of Hawaii system shall each ensure  
8 that a certain percentage of the food purchased for public  
9 schools, youth campuses, public hospitals, public prisons, and  
10 any purchases made directly by the university of Hawaii for use  
11 in its academic programs, as applicable, is fresh local  
12 agricultural products and local value-added, processed,  
13 agricultural, or food products, as follows:

14 (1) By January 1, 2025, fresh local agricultural products  
15 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
16 food products shall constitute a minimum of ten per  
17 cent of the total food purchased during each  
18 ~~[calendar]~~ year, as measured by the per cent of total  
19 food cost; provided that the department of education  
20 shall be exempt from the requirements of this  
21 paragraph;



1           (2) By January 1, 2030, fresh local agricultural products  
2           and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
3           food products shall constitute a minimum of eighteen  
4           per cent of the total food purchased during each  
5           [~~calendar~~] year, as measured by the per cent of total  
6           food cost; provided that the department of education  
7           shall be exempt from the requirements of this  
8           paragraph and instead shall be subject to the  
9           requirements in section 302A-405.6(a);

10          (3) By January 1, 2035, fresh local agricultural products  
11          and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
12          food products shall constitute a minimum of twenty-six  
13          per cent of the total food purchased during each  
14          [~~calendar~~] year, as measured by the per cent of total  
15          food cost; provided that the department of education  
16          shall be exempt from the requirements of this  
17          paragraph;

18          (4) By January 1, 2040, fresh local agricultural products  
19          and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
20          food products shall constitute a minimum of  
21          thirty-four per cent of the total food purchased



1 during each [~~calendar~~] year, as measured by the per  
2 cent of total food cost;

3 (5) By January 1, 2045, fresh local agricultural products  
4 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
5 food products shall constitute a minimum of forty-two  
6 per cent of the total food purchased during each  
7 [~~calendar~~] year, as measured by the per cent of total  
8 food cost; and

9 (6) By January 1, 2050, fresh local agricultural products  
10 and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or  
11 food products shall constitute a minimum of fifty per  
12 cent of the total food purchased during each  
13 [~~calendar~~] year, as measured by the per cent of total  
14 food cost.

15 (b) The department of education, department of health,  
16 department of corrections and rehabilitation, department of  
17 defense, and [~~University~~] university of Hawaii system shall each  
18 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days  
19 prior to the convening of each regular session on progress made  
20 toward meeting the benchmarks described in subsection (a),  
21 including:



(1) The total cost of food purchased during the [~~calendar~~] year preceding that regular session[, ~~or in the case of the department of education, during the school year preceding that regular session~~];

(2) The percentage of the total cost of food purchased during the [~~calendar~~] year preceding that regular session, accounted for by the total cost of fresh local agricultural products and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products purchased[, ~~or in the case of the department of education, during the school year preceding that regular session~~]; and

(3) If the department or [~~University~~] university of Hawaii system did not meet the relevant benchmark described in subsection (a), an explanation of why the department or [~~University~~] university of Hawaii system did not meet that benchmark.

The report may be combined with the report required under section 27- (b).

(c) As used in this section:

"Fresh local agricultural products" means fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products,



1 livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products,  
2 aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural  
3 products, that are one hundred per cent grown, raised, and  
4 harvested in Hawaii.

5 "Local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food  
6 products" means a product for which at least fifty-one per cent  
7 of its primary agricultural product is grown, raised, and  
8 harvested in Hawaii.

9 "Primary agricultural product" means the major agricultural  
10 product in a processed or value-added agricultural or food  
11 product.

12 "Year" means calendar year; provided that for the  
13 department of education, "year" means school year."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn DeCorte





# S.B. NO. 2258

**Report Title:**

DOE; DOH; DCR; DOD; DAGS; UH; Local Preference; Landscaping Materials; Mulch; Compost; Soil

**Description:**

Gradually requires that by 2032, 30% of natural landscaping materials purchased by certain departments be purchased from sources that manufacture, process, produce, or harvest the natural landscaping materials in Hawaii. Applies to the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Defense, Department of Accounting and General Services, and University of Hawaii.

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