
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are numerous
3 benefits to introducing the farm to school program in the
4 State's public schools. The farm to school program connects
5 schools with local farms with the objectives of supporting local
6 agriculture, educating students about food cultivation,
7 mitigating adverse environmental impacts caused by transporting
8 food across long distances, and instilling healthy eating habits
9 in students.

10 The farm to school program contains two major components.
11 First, students receive education on nutrition, and are taught
12 the value of buying and eating local food. The second component
13 involves the serving of local food in school cafeterias, giving
14 students the choice to eat healthier, more nutritious local
15 produce.

16 The National Farm to School Program reports that some form
17 of the farm to school program is currently operating in eight



1 thousand seven hundred seventy-six schools in forty different
2 states. In Hawaii, three schools participate in the farm to
3 school program: Aikahi elementary, Moanalua elementary, and
4 Hakipuu learning center. In addition, Haiku elementary buys
5 produce from local farmers when it is available. These schools
6 can serve as models for an expansion of the farm to school
7 program in public schools statewide.

8 The legislature further finds that the benefits of serving
9 locally produced food in school cafeterias have been
10 demonstrated by the success and growth of the farm to school
11 program in several states, including California, Florida,
12 Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, North
13 Carolina, and Oregon. Studies conducted by the Center for Food
14 and Justice have found that students who ate from the salad bars
15 provided through the program received an average of fifty-eight
16 per cent more servings of fruits and vegetables than those
17 eating hot meals. Additionally, the farmers supplying produce
18 gained an additional \$1,700 monthly on average.

19 According to the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui,
20 Hawaii imports ninety per cent of its food, pays sixty-six per
21 cent more than the national average for food, and has, at any
22 given time, only seven days' worth of food in the state. The



1 Institute's assessment strongly recommends a decrease in
2 importation of food and an increase in local food production.
3 Students also support the farm to school program. At the 2008
4 Hawaii secondary student conference, more than seventy per cent
5 of the student delegates supported implementation of the program
6 in the State's public schools.

7 The demand for inexpensive, local food is growing as global
8 food prices and transportation costs increase. Statewide
9 implementation of the farm to school program would substantially
10 expand the market for local farmers and boost the local farming
11 industry to relieve the State's dependence on imported food.

12 PART II

13 SECTION 2. The purpose of this part is to support the farm
14 to school program in Hawaii by establishing a farm to school
15 policy in chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, part II, subpart C, Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be
18 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

19 "§302A- Farm to school policy; established. The
20 legislature finds that the use of locally grown food in schools
21 fosters the long-term health of Hawaii's children and supports
22 the local agricultural industry. The legislature finds and



1 declares that it shall be the policy of the State to encourage
2 and support a farm to school program in Hawaii's public
3 schools."

4 PART III

5 SECTION 4. The purpose of this part is to establish the
6 farm to school program in Hawaii's public schools.

7 SECTION 5. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Farm to school program. (a) There is
11 established in the department of education a farm to school
12 program.

13 The purpose of the farm to school program is to connect
14 schools with local farmers with the objectives of serving
15 healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition,
16 providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will
17 last a lifetime, and supporting local farmers.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the farm
19 to school program, in consultation as necessary with the
20 department of health, the department of accounting and general
21 services, and the department of agriculture, shall:



- 1 (1) Coordinate the identification and development of
2 policies and procedures to implement and evaluate the
3 program;
- 4 (2) Investigate the potential of various procurement
5 procedures and tools for school food authorities to
6 purchase local farm products, including procuring from
7 local farmers, processors, and suppliers within larger
8 food contracts;
- 9 (3) Educate food service personnel on procurement
10 techniques to promote the use of these techniques for
11 farm to school initiatives implemented under this
12 section;
- 13 (4) Implement food preparation training for food service
14 personnel to accommodate sourcing fresh and local
15 produce and products;
- 16 (5) Encourage procurement from local farmers, processors,
17 and suppliers for farm produce and products whenever
18 possible under the procurement code;
- 19 (6) Encourage all new school construction projects to
20 consider kitchen facilities capable of producing fresh
21 and healthy school meals;



- 1 (7) Identify and encourage the use of existing curricula,
2 programs, and publications to educate students on the
3 nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of
4 preparing and consuming Hawaii-grown produce;
- 5 (8) Support efforts to advance other farm to school
6 connections such as farmers markets on school grounds,
7 school gardens, and community-supported agriculture;
- 8 (9) Hire a farm to school coordinator to identify local
9 farmers, processors, and suppliers to enhance the farm
10 to school connection;
- 11 (10) Identify, target, and promote job creation around farm
12 to school initiatives;
- 13 (11) In cooperation with commodity groups and grower
14 associations, use existing web-based market
15 development tools or adopt a voluntary web-based
16 directory of farmers searchable by location; provided
17 that the directory shall be updated and consistently
18 maintained and usable by anyone interested in locating
19 local farmers and local produce and products;
- 20 (12) Assist food growers and distributors to market Hawaii-
21 grown produce to schools by informing them of food



- 1 procurement opportunities, bid procedures, school
- 2 purchasing criteria, and other requirements;
- 3 (13) Investigate opportunities for farmers to supply their
- 4 products to commercial distributors that service
- 5 public schools;
- 6 (14) Identify and recommend mechanisms that will increase
- 7 the predictability of sales for producers and the
- 8 adequacy of supply for purchasers; and
- 9 (15) Seek additional private and public sector funds to
- 10 leverage any appropriations."

11

PART IV

12

SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

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SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 1179
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Education; Farm to School Program

Description:

Establishes a state farm to school policy, and a farm to school program in the department of education. (SB1179 HD1)

SB1179 HD1 HMS 2009-3169

