
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

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

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

15 The National Farm to School Program reports that some form
16 of the farm to school program is currently operating in 8,776
17 schools in forty different states. In Hawaii, three schools

1 participate in the farm to school program: Aikahi elementary,
2 Moanalua elementary, and Hakipuu learning center. In addition,
3 Haiku elementary buys produce from local farmers when it is
4 available. These schools can serve as models for an expansion
5 of the farm to school program in public schools statewide.

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

17 According to the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui,
18 Hawaii imports ninety per cent of its food, pays sixty-six per
19 cent more than the national average for food, and has, at any
20 given time, only seven days' worth of food in the State. The
21 Institute's assessment strongly recommends a decrease in
22 importation of food and an increase in local food production.

1 Students also support the farm to school program. At the 2008
2 Hawaii secondary student conference, more than seventy per cent
3 of the student delegates supported implementation of the program
4 in the State's public schools.

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

10 **PART I**

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

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

17 "§302A- Farm to school policy; established. The
18 legislature finds that the use of locally grown food in schools
19 fosters the long-term health of Hawaii's children and supports
20 the local agricultural industry. The legislature finds and
21 declares that it shall be the policy of the State to encourage

1 and support a farm to school program in Hawaii's public
2 schools."

3 **PART II**

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

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

9 **"§302A- Farm to school program.** (a) There is
10 established in the department of education a farm to school
11 program.

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

17 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the farm
18 to school program, in consultation as necessary with the
19 department of health, the department of accounting and general
20 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 their use for farm to school
11 initiatives implemented under this section;
- 12 (4) Implement food preparation training for food service
13 personnel to accommodate sourcing fresh and local
14 produce and products;
- 15 (5) Encourage procurement from local farmers, processors,
16 and suppliers for farm produce and products whenever
17 possible under the procurement code;
- 18 (6) Encourage all new school construction projects to
19 consider kitchen facilities capable of producing fresh
20 and healthy school meals;
- 21 (7) Identify and encourage the use of existing curricula,
22 programs, and publications to educate students on the

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

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

PART III

10 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2090.

Report Title:

Department of Education; Farm to School Program

Description:

Establishes a farm to school policy in chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (education law). Establishes a farm to school program in the department of education. (SD2)