

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII GROWN PRODUCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A-A Farm-to-school program. (a) There is
5 established in the department of education a farm-to-school
6 program. The purpose of the program is to increase procurement
7 of locally-grown fruits and vegetables by public schools.

8 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the farm-
9 to-school program, in consultation as necessary with the
10 departments of health, accounting and general services, and
11 agriculture, shall:

12 (1) Coordinate the identification and development of
13 policies and procedures to implement and evaluate the
14 program;

15 (2) Assist food growers and distributors to market Hawaii-
16 grown produce to schools by informing them of food
17 procurement opportunities, bid procedures, school
18 purchasing criteria, and other requirements;



1 (3) Assist schools to connect with local growers and
2 distributors by informing the schools of the sources
3 and availability of Hawaii-grown produce as well as
4 the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits
5 of purchasing Hawaii-grown produce;

6 (4) Identify and recommend mechanisms that will increase
7 the predictability of sales for producers and the
8 adequacy of supply for purchasers;

9 (5) Identify and encourage the use of existing curricula,
10 programs, and publications to educate students on the
11 nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of
12 preparing and consuming Hawaii-grown produce;

13 (6) Support efforts to advance other farm-to-school
14 connections such as farmers markets on school grounds,
15 school gardens, and community-supported agriculture;
16 and

17 (7) Seek additional private and public sector funds to
18 leverage any appropriations.

19 (c) As used in this section, "Hawaii-grown produce" means
20 fruits and vegetables grown or raised in the State that are
21 unprocessed, minimally processed, flash frozen, or otherwise
22 prepared and handled to maintain its fresh nature while



1 providing convenience to the user. Producing minimally
2 processed foods means cleaning, washing, cutting, or portioning.

3 §302A-B Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program.

4 (a) The Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program is
5 created in the department of education. The purpose of the
6 program is to facilitate consumption of locally produced
7 nutritious snacks in order to improve student health and expand
8 the market for locally grown fresh produce.

9 (b) As used in this section, "Hawaii-grown fresh fruits
10 and vegetables" means fruits and vegetables grown or raised in
11 this State that are unprocessed, minimally processed, flash
12 frozen, or otherwise prepared and handled to maintain the fresh
13 nature of the fruits and vegetables while providing convenience
14 to the user. Producing minimally processed foods means
15 cleaning, washing, cutting, or portioning.

16 (c) The program shall increase the number of school
17 children with access to Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables
18 and shall be modeled after the United States Department of
19 Agriculture fresh fruit and vegetable program, as described in
20 42 United States Code section 1769(g). Schools receiving funds
21 under the federal fresh fruit and vegetable program are not



1 eligible for grants under the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and
2 vegetable program.

3 (d) (1) To the extent that state funds are appropriated
4 specifically for this purpose, the department shall
5 solicit applications, conduct a competitive process,
6 and make one- or two-year grants to schools to enable
7 eligible schools to provide free locally grown fresh
8 fruits and vegetables throughout the school day;

9 (2) When evaluating applications and selecting grantees,
10 the department shall consider and prioritize the
11 following factors:

12 (A) The applicant's plan for ensuring the use of
13 Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables within the
14 program;

15 (B) The applicant's plan for incorporating nutrition
16 and related agricultural stewardship and
17 environmental education into the curriculum; and

18 (C) The applicant's plan for establishing
19 partnerships with state, local, and private
20 entities to further the program's objectives,
21 such as helping the school acquire, handle,
22 store, and distribute fresh fruits and



1 vegetables, and developing educational components
2 around nutrition and agricultural stewardship.

3 (e) The department:

4 (1) Shall give funding priority to applicant schools with
5 any of grades kindergarten through eight that
6 participate in the national school lunch program and
7 have fifty per cent or more of their students eligible
8 for free or reduced price meals under the federal
9 National School Lunch Act;

10 (2) May award grants to applicant schools with less than
11 fifty per cent of the students eligible for free or
12 reduced price meals if any funds remain after all
13 eligible priority applicant schools have been awarded
14 grants, the department.

15 (f) The department shall develop and track specific,
16 quantifiable outcome measures of the grant program, such as the
17 number of students served by the program and the dollar value of
18 purchase orders to local farmers resulting from the program.
19 With assistance from the department of agriculture, the
20 department shall track the development of farm-to-school
21 partnerships that extend beyond the cafeteria.



1 §302A-C School gardens. (a) All schools are authorized
2 to grow food in school gardens for consumption in their school
3 lunch and as part of Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable
4 programs.

5 (b) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to
6 facilitate the implementation of this section.

7 (c) Every school garden program shall educate students
8 about organic and conventional growing methods."

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§346- Farmers to food banks pilot program. (a) The
13 department of human services shall establish a pilot program in
14 cooperation with the department of agriculture to contract with
15 local farmers to provide Hawaii-grown produce to low-income
16 people through designated food banks. The pilot program shall
17 operate in select pilot site communities statewide.

18 (b) The department of human services shall select the
19 pilot communities that shall participate in the project. The
20 selection of pilot communities shall be based on:

21 (1) The percentage of the population suffering from hunger
22 and food insecurity;



Report Title:

Hawaii Grown Produce

Description:

Establishes the farm-to-school program in the department of education to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Establishes the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program to increase schoolchildren's access to Hawaii produce. Establishes the farmers to food banks program.

