
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is facing
2 many uphill battles, from the health of our keiki to a
3 struggling economy. Over the years, Hawaii has also become
4 extremely dependent on mainland food sources as the slowdown in
5 the economy has led to local farmers struggling to remain
6 financially viable.

7 The legislature also finds that since its inception in
8 1996, farm to school programs nationwide have been making
9 healthy eating a priority in our schools and building strong
10 community connections. Farm to school programs provide
11 agricultural, health, and nutritional education opportunities
12 while supporting Hawaii's farmers, and bring together schools
13 and local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in
14 school cafeterias and improving student nutrition. The farm to
15 school approach helps children understand where their food comes
16 from and how their food choices impact their bodies, the
17 environment, and their communities at large.



1 The legislature also finds that the department of health
2 enacted the healthy Hawaii initiative in 2000, to promote
3 healthier lifestyles through community-based targeted
4 intervention. Throughout the State, the Hawaii school garden
5 hui is dedicated to addressing educational needs in agricultural
6 sustainability by supporting existing school gardens,
7 implementing new school gardens, and integrating locally grown
8 and processed foods into cafeterias, snack programs, and after
9 school programs, with community involvement.

10 The legislature also finds that the department of health
11 supports other related programs like the Kokua Hawaii
12 Foundations 'aina in schools (actively integrating nutrition &
13 agriculture in schools) program. This program is working to
14 address childhood health issues such as obesity by fostering
15 healthy eating habits and encouraging environmental stewardship
16 by connecting children to the land that sustains them, in
17 addition to creating an institutional market for Hawaii's farmers
18 and their produce. This program also integrates nutrition
19 education, garden-based learning, agricultural literacy, healthy
20 school lunches, family and community outreach, and waste
21 reduction and management which reduces, reuses, and recycles
22 waste in gardens, cafeterias, and classrooms.



1 The legislature also finds that these innovative programs
2 are important in improving the health of Hawaii's keiki,
3 establishing food security, stimulating the economy through
4 agriculture, and meeting Hawaii's food security needs.

5 The legislature further finds that that United States House
6 of Representatives recently approved House Resolution 1655,
7 which designates October as National Farm to School month. The
8 resolution seeks to encourage direct farm to school programs
9 nationally, which should in turn bolster local agriculture and
10 improve school nutrition, and would be an outcome that would be
11 welcome in Hawaii.

12 The purpose of this Act is to designate October as "Farm to
13 School Month in Hawaii".

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
15 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
16 read as follows:

17 "§8- Farm to School month. The month of October shall
18 be known and designated "Farm to School Month in Hawaii". This
19 month is not and shall not be construed as a state holiday."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Farm to School Month

Description:

Designates October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii. (HB1475 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

