
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 the tough
3 economic times. Over the years Hawaii has become dependent on
4 mainland food sources, which has led to food insecurity. The
5 tough economic times have led to farmers earning less.
6 The legislature also finds that since their inception in
7 1996, Farm to School programs nationwide have been making
8 healthy eating a priority in our schools and building strong
9 community connections. Farm to School programs provide
10 agriculture, health, and nutrition education opportunities while
11 supporting Hawaii's farmers, and bring together schools and
12 local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in
13 school cafeterias and improving student nutrition. The Farm to
14 School approach helps children understand where their food comes
15 from and how their food choices impact their bodies, the
16 environment, and their communities at large.



1 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii Department of
2 Health enacted the Healthy Hawaii Initiative in 2000, in order
3 to promote healthier lifestyles through community-based targeted
4 intervention. Throughout the State, the Hawai'i 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 locally made foods into cafeterias, snack programs and after
9 school programs with community involvement.

10 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii Department of
11 Health supports other related programs like Kokua Hawai'i
12 Foundation's Actively Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture In
13 Schools program ('AINA In Schools). The 'AINA In Schools program
14 is working to address childhood health issues like obesity and
15 being overweight by fostering healthy eating habits and
16 encouraging environmental stewardship by connecting children to
17 the land that sustains them in addition to creating an
18 institutional market for Hawaii's farmers and their produce. The
19 'AINA In Schools program integrates nutrition education, garden-
20 based learning, agricultural literacy, healthy school lunch,
21 family and community outreach, and waste reduction and



1 management, which reduces, reuses, and recycles waste in
2 gardens, cafeterias, and classrooms.

3 The legislature also finds that these innovative programs
4 are helping Hawaii by improving the health of Hawaii's keiki,
5 establishing food security, growing the economy through
6 agriculture, and establishing Hawaii's food security needs.

7 The legislature further finds that the United States House
8 of Representatives recently approved House Resolution 1655,
9 which designates October as National Farm to School month. The
10 resolution seeks to encourage direct farm to school programs
11 nationally to in turn bolster local agricultural economies and
12 improve school nutrition, which would be welcomed outcomes in
13 Hawaii.

14 The purpose of this Act is to designate October as Farm to
15 School Month in Hawaii.

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

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

22 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

2



Report Title:

Farm to School Month

Description:

Designates October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii. (SD1)

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

