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# 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 three new sections to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§302A- 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 in marketing Hawaii-grown produce to schools by  
16 informing Hawaii food growers and distributors of food  
17 procurement opportunities, bid procedures, school  
18 purchasing criteria, and other requirements;



- 1        (3) Assist schools in connecting with Hawaii 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 Hawaii growers and  
8        distributors and the adequacy of supply for purchasing  
9        schools;
- 10       (5) Identify and encourage the use of existing curricula,  
11       programs, and publications to educate students on the  
12       nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of  
13       preparing and consuming Hawaii-grown produce;
- 14       (6) Support efforts to advance other farm-to-school  
15       connections such as farmers markets on school grounds,  
16       school gardens, and community-supported agriculture;  
17       and
- 18       (7) Seek additional private and public sector funds to  
19       leverage any appropriations.
- 20       (c) As used in this section:  
21       "Hawaii-grown produce" means fruits and vegetables grown or  
22       raised in the State that are unprocessed, minimally processed,



1 flash frozen, or otherwise prepared and handled to maintain  
2 their fresh nature while providing convenience to the user.

3 "Minimally processed foods" means food that has only been  
4 cleaned, washed, cut, or portioned.

5 **§302A- Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program.**

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

11 (b) The program shall increase the number of school  
12 children with access to Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables  
13 and shall be modeled after the United States Department of  
14 Agriculture fresh fruit and vegetable program, as described in  
15 42 United States Code Section 1769(g). Schools receiving funds  
16 under the federal fresh fruit and vegetable program are not  
17 eligible for grants under the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and  
18 vegetable program.

19 (c) To the extent that state funds are appropriated  
20 specifically for this the program established by this section,  
21 the department shall solicit applications, conduct a competitive  
22 process, and award one- or two-year grants to eligible schools



1 to enable them to provide free Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and  
2 vegetables throughout the school day. When evaluating  
3 applications and selecting grantees, the department shall  
4 consider and prioritize the following factors:

- 5 (1) The applicant's plan for ensuring the use of Hawaii-  
6 grown fruits and vegetables within the program;  
7 (2) The applicant's plan for incorporating nutrition and  
8 related agricultural stewardship and environmental  
9 education into the school curriculum; and  
10 (3) The applicant's plan for establishing partnerships  
11 with state, local, and private entities to further the  
12 program's objectives, such as helping the school  
13 acquire, handle, store, and distribute fresh fruits  
14 and vegetables, and developing educational components  
15 around nutrition and agricultural stewardship.  
16 (d) The department:  
17 (1) Shall give funding priority to applicant schools with  
18 any of grades kindergarten through eight that:  
19 (A) Participate in the national school lunch program;  
20 and  
21 (B) Have a student population that comprises fifty  
22 per cent or more of students who are eligible for



1                   free or reduced-price meals under the federal  
2                   National School Lunch Act; and

3       (2) May award grants to applicant schools that have a  
4           student population that comprises less than fifty per  
5           cent of students eligible for free or reduced-price  
6           meals if any funds remain after all eligible priority  
7           applicant schools under paragraph (1) have been  
8           awarded grants.

9       (e) The department shall develop and track specific,  
10       quantifiable outcome measures of the grant program, such as the  
11       number of students served by the program and the dollar value of  
12       purchase orders to Hawaii farmers resulting from the program.  
13       With assistance from the department of agriculture, the  
14       department shall track the development of farm-to-school  
15       partnerships that extend beyond the cafeteria.

16       (f) As used in this section:

17       "Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables" means fruits and  
18       vegetables grown or raised in this State that are unprocessed,  
19       minimally processed, flash frozen, or otherwise prepared and  
20       handled to maintain the fresh nature of the fruits and  
21       vegetables while providing convenience to the user.



1 "Minimally processed foods" means food that has only been  
2 cleaned, washed, cut, or portioned.

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

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

9 (c) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
10 facilitate the implementation of this section."

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

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

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



- 1        (1) The percentage of the population in the community  
2        suffering from hunger and food insecurity;
- 3        (2) The existence and success of the local food bank  
4        program;
- 5        (3) The potential to engage and contract with local  
6        farmers; and
- 7        (4) The capacity to leverage private sector funding and  
8        in-kind contributions.
- 9        (c) Any funds appropriated by the legislature shall be  
10       used by the pilot program to contract with Hawaii farmers to  
11       provide fruits and vegetables for distribution to low-income  
12       people through designated food banks.
- 13       (d) The department of human services shall report to the  
14       legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the  
15       2012 and 2013 regular sessions regarding the progress of the  
16       pilot program."

17       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**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 school children's access to Hawaii produce. Establishes the farmers to food banks pilot program. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB1380 HD1)

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

