
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 Hawai'i is facing
2 many uphill battles, from the health of our keiki to the tough
3 economic times. Over the years Hawai'i has become dependent on
4 mainland food sources, which have led to food insecurity. The
5 tough economic times have led to farmers earning less.

6 The legislature also finds that since its 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. The Farm to School program provides
10 agriculture, health, and nutrition education opportunities while
11 supporting Hawai'i's farmers, and brings 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 Hawai'i Department of
2 Health enacted the Healthy Hawai'i 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 made foods into cafeterias, snack programs and after school
9 programs with community involvement.

10 The legislature also finds that the Hawai'i Department of
11 Health supports other related programs like The Kokua
12 Foundation's Actively Integrate Nutrition and Agriculture In
13 Schools program (AINA IS). The AINA IS program is working to
14 address childhood health issues like obesity and being
15 overweight by fostering healthy eating habits and encouraging
16 environmental stewardship by connecting children to the land
17 that sustains them in addition to creating an institutional
18 market for Hawai'i's farmers and their produce. The AINA IS
19 program integrates Nutrition Education, Garden-based Learning,
20 Agricultural Literacy, Healthy School Lunch, Family & Community
21 Outreach and Waste Reduction and Management, which reduces,
22 reuses and recycles waste in gardens, cafeterias and classrooms.



1 The legislature also finds that these innovative programs
2 are helping Hawai'i through improving the health of Hawai'i's
3 keiki, establishing food security, growing the economy through
4 agriculture, and establishing Hawai'i'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 agricultural
10 economies and improve school nutrition, and would be an outcome
11 that would be welcome in Hawai'i.

12 The purpose of this act is to designate October as Farm to
13 School Month in Hawai'i.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawai'i 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
18 shall be known and designated "Farm to School Month in Hawai'i".
19 This month is not and shall not be construed as a state
20 holiday."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



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Report Title:

Farm to School Month

Description:

Designates October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

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