
HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING OCTOBER AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII AND
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COOPERATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A
FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, "Farm to School" refers to a nationwide movement
2 to enrich children's bodies and minds while supporting local
3 economies and encouraging an interest in agriculture among the
4 next generation; and
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6 WHEREAS, under Farm to School programs, an increasing
7 number of schools have begun to source more foods locally and
8 provide complementary educational activities to their students
9 that emphasize food, farming, and nutrition; and
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11 WHEREAS, such programs also link health and nutrition to
12 farming education, by bringing local or regionally produced
13 foods into school cafeterias, offering hands-on learning
14 activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary
15 classes, and helping to integrate food-related education into
16 the classroom curriculum; and
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18 WHEREAS, such programs also contribute to student education
19 and career readiness in science, technology, engineering, and
20 mathematics fields; and
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22 WHEREAS, Farm to School programs can also address the
23 concern that this generation of children may be the first to not
24 outlive their parents, due to the prevalence of physical
25 inactivity among our youth and the associated risk of obesity;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
29 recommends eating more fresh fruits and vegetables as a strategy
30 to prevent and control obesity; and



1 WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a national epidemic, and in
2 Hawaii, childhood obesity increased by thirty-eight percent
3 between 1999 and 2009; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State Department of Education Wellness
6 Guidelines state that meal programs are designed to feature
7 fresh and minimally processed fruits and vegetables from local
8 sources, to the greatest extent possible, and connecting local
9 farms to schools through Farm to School programs is consistent
10 with this goal; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2013, that October be declared "Farm to School Month"
15 in the State of Hawaii; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
18 in cooperation with the Department of Education, is requested to
19 create and implement a Farm to School Program in Hawaii's public
20 schools; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
23 and Department of Education are each requested to submit a
24 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
25 convening of the Regular Session of 2014, containing information
26 on their progress in creating and implementing the Farm to
27 School Program.
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
31 Agriculture, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the
32 Superintendent of Education.
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