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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that at least twenty  
2 states have established farm to school programs and coordinator  
3 positions to improve the health of children through the support  
4 of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture,  
5 and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and  
6 snacks. A successful farm to school program can increase  
7 students' physical activity, school meal participation,  
8 preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic  
9 achievement and student behavior.

10       The legislature further finds that Oregon, a national  
11 leader in the farm to school movement, has full-time farm to  
12 school coordinators in Oregon's department of agriculture and  
13 department of education. The coordinators work together and  
14 with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the  
15 procurement of locally grown foods for schools, encouraging the  
16 students' consumption of locally grown foods.



1           The legislature additionally finds that farm to school  
2 activities support a nutritious school food environment and more  
3 than 85 per cent of the youth in Hawaii attend public schools.  
4 Students who participate in farm to school activities are more  
5 likely to be familiar with, have a preference for, and consume  
6 more fruits and vegetables at school and at home. Establishing  
7 healthy behaviors at an early age may prevent the onset of  
8 chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. The  
9 leading causes of death in Hawaii are heart disease, cancer, and  
10 diabetes, illness that are often associated with dietary  
11 behaviors. Investing in the health of children will help them  
12 to achieve greater educational attainment and lead to stronger  
13 communities. Moreover, Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,  
14 encourages the purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food  
15 products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies.  
16 Increasing the procurement of local agricultural products for  
17 schools has the added benefit of supporting the State's  
18 agricultural economy by providing an additional revenue source  
19 for local farmers.

20           The purpose of this Act is to create a farm to school  
21 program in the department of agriculture and to provide funding



1 for two farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the  
2 State's farm to school program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§141- Hawaii farm to school program; farm to school  
7 coordinator. (a) There is established within the department of  
8 agriculture a Hawaii farm to school program. The purpose of the  
9 farm to school program shall be to improve student health,  
10 develop an educated agricultural workforce, and enrich the local  
11 food system through the support and increase of local food  
12 procurement for the State's public schools and other  
13 institutions, the acceleration of garden and farm-based  
14 education for the State's students, and the expansion of the  
15 relationships between schools and agricultural communities.

16 (b) The Hawaii farm to school program shall be headed by  
17 two farm to school coordinators, one coordinator from the  
18 department of agriculture and one coordinator from the  
19 department of education, who shall work in collaboration with  
20 each other and the appropriate stakeholders to address the  
21 issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of



1 Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education  
2 facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more  
3 agriculture and nutrition education in schools."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
8 2016-2017 for the establishment of a full-time equivalent (1.0  
9 FTE) farm to school coordinator position in the department of  
10 agriculture.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2016-2017 for the establishment of a full-time equivalent (1.0  
18 FTE) farm to school coordinator position in the department of  
19 education.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
21 of education for the purposes of this Act.



# H.B. NO. 627

1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2015



# H.B. NO. 627

**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Department of Education; Farm to School Program; Hawaii Farm to School Coordinators; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions. Appropriates funds.

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

