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## SENATE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, research and experience in schools across the  
2 country are increasingly demonstrating that school children  
3 significantly increase their consumption of fruits and  
4 vegetables when given a variety of choices in school; and  
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6           WHEREAS, providing fresh local produce in schools benefits  
7 local farmers and school children; and  
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9           WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives are a driving force  
10 behind food system change in Hawaii; and  
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12           WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives connect schools and  
13 local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in  
14 school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, and lowering  
15 childhood obesity; and  
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17           WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives provide students with  
18 access to fresh, local foods, as well as educational  
19 opportunities, including school gardens and farm field trips;  
20 and  
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22           WHEREAS, farm to school initiatives enrich the connection  
23 that the community has with healthy food and local food  
24 producers; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the average age of Hawaii's commercial farmers is  
27 over sixty years old and action is necessary to encourage  
28 students to look at career paths in the farming industry and  
29 increasing farm-related workforce development; and  
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31           WHEREAS, Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, invested in  
32 developing a coordinated statewide initiative to enrich



1 connections between the healthy choices of locally grown food,  
2 keiki, schools, and farming communities; and  
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4 WHEREAS, designating a "Farm to School Month" is an  
5 opportunity to highlight the State's farm to school programs,  
6 and to highlight and launch initiatives for our developing farm  
7 to school programs; and  
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9 WHEREAS, in 2010, the United States House of  
10 Representatives passed a resolution designating October as the  
11 "National Farm to School Month"; and  
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13 WHEREAS, during the "National Farm to School Month",  
14 schools across the country celebrate local food served in their  
15 cafeterias, schoolyard gardens, and the food and agricultural  
16 enrichment occurring in the classrooms; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the designation of the month of October of each  
19 year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii will support farm to  
20 school initiatives in our schools, and empower children and  
21 their families to make informed food choices while strengthening  
22 the local economy and contributing to the community; now,  
23 therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,  
27 that the month of October of each year be designated as "Farm to  
28 School Month" to strengthen and support farm to school  
29 initiatives in Hawaii's schools; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Superintendent of  
33 Education, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of the  
34 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture  
35 and Human Resources, and Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden  
36 Hui.

