
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that up to thirty-five
2 per cent of food in public schools is wasted each day, costing
3 the department of education millions of dollars each year. Food
4 waste is the second-largest contributor to waste and accounts
5 for twenty-five per cent of all materials sent to landfills.
6 Production of food for our public schools uses significant
7 resources, including freshwater, fertilizer, and agricultural
8 land. In addition, this excessive use of food resources
9 contributes significantly to climate change and the State's
10 carbon emissions through methane gas emitted in landfills and
11 carbon dioxide emitted during production and shipment of food to
12 the State.

13 The legislature finds that safely sharing unused food with
14 those who need it and implementing on-site campus composting
15 programs are effective ways to divert significant amounts of
16 food waste from landfills, save millions of dollars each year,
17 provide a valuable and engaging learning experience for



1 students, and produce tons of fresh carbon-sequestering compost
2 for use by local farmers and communities.

3 The legislature finds that students involved with on-site
4 campus composting programs can learn about the relationships
5 between composting, food waste, nutrient cycling, soil health,
6 and local food production, and be empowered with valuable tools
7 to reduce their own carbon and waste footprints for themselves
8 and those around them.

9 The legislature further finds that providing access to
10 healthy plant-based foods in the State's public schools is an
11 effective way to improve sustainability and student health.
12 Raising livestock for meat, eggs, and milk generates more than
13 fourteen per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and
14 contributes to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water
15 pollution.

16 The legislature further finds that increasing healthy
17 plant-based alternatives in school meals can significantly
18 improve student health. With the federal government rolling
19 back rules to improve the health of school meals, taking action
20 locally is appropriate. Educating and engaging students about
21 healthy plant-based foods can also provide students with



1 valuable lessons about their own health, carbon footprints, and
2 waste footprints.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish long-
4 term targets in the sustainable schools initiative to address
5 food waste and improve sustainable meals in Hawaii's public
6 schools.

7 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1510, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "[+]§302A-1510[+] **Sustainable schools initiative.** (a)

10 The department shall establish [~~a goal~~] the goals of [~~becoming~~]:

11 (1) Becoming net-zero with respect to energy use,
12 producing as much renewable energy as the department
13 consumes across all public school facilities, by
14 January 1, 2035[+];

15 (2) Becoming net-zero with respect to food waste by safely
16 sharing excess food with those who need it and
17 utilizing all other food waste from public school
18 facilities to create compost at public school
19 campuses, by January 1, 2035;



1 (3) Offering plant-based alternatives for fifty per cent
2 of all protein requirements in meals offered across
3 all public schools annually, by January 1, 2035; and

4 (4) Meaningfully engaging students and incorporating the
5 sustainable schools initiative elements into
6 curriculum across all public schools.

7 (b) The department shall use the amount and value of
8 energy consumed by the department across all public school
9 facilities during the 2015-2016 fiscal year as the benchmark for
10 measuring the department's progress toward the energy usage goal
11 set forth in subsection (a).

12 (c) The department shall submit an annual report that
13 shall include information on:

14 (1) The overall progress toward the net-zero energy goal
15 set forth in subsection (a);

16 (2) Its plans and recommendations to advance the net-zero
17 energy goal set forth in subsection (a); and

18 (3) Any challenges or barriers encountered or anticipated
19 by the department in meeting the net-zero energy goal
20 set forth in subsection (a).



1 (d) The department shall expedite the cooling of all
2 public school classrooms to a temperature acceptable for student
3 learning. When implementing classroom cooling measures, the
4 department, and any contractor hired to implement classroom
5 cooling measures, shall maximize energy efficiency and
6 installation and operating cost savings over the entire life of
7 the project.

8 (e) Pursuant to this section, the department shall include
9 in the report the status of the implementation of measures taken
10 to cool public school classrooms as required by subsection (d).
11 The report shall include the following information:

- 12 (1) The number of completed classrooms in which cooling
13 measures were implemented and the number of classrooms
14 remaining that require cooling;
- 15 (2) The different types of cooling measures implemented;
- 16 (3) The approximate cost per classroom for planned cooling
17 measures, including installation, upgrades, equipment,
18 maintenance, and projected operating costs over the
19 life of the installed cooling measures;
- 20 (4) The approximate cost per completed classroom for
21 cooling measures implemented, including installation,



1 upgrades, equipment, maintenance, and projected
2 operating costs over the life of the installed cooling
3 measures;

4 (5) The number of completed classrooms in which energy
5 efficiency measures were installed or implemented and
6 the number of classrooms remaining that require energy
7 efficiency measures; and

8 (6) The different types of energy efficiency measures
9 installed or implemented.

10 (f) The department shall develop procedures, guidelines,
11 and standards for each public school to safely share excess food
12 with those who need it and create and facilitate their own on-
13 site campus composting program for all other food waste. Each
14 on-site campus composting program shall utilize all applicable
15 food waste and other organic material from the school's
16 cafeteria and other home-brought food waste to the maximum
17 extent practicable. The department shall ensure that each
18 public school is on track to becoming net-zero with respect to
19 food waste.

20 (g) The report submitted pursuant to subsection (j) shall
21 include information on:



- 1 (1) The overall progress toward the net-zero food waste
2 goal set forth in subsection (a);
- 3 (2) The number of public schools sharing excess food with
4 others who need it;
- 5 (3) The approximate amount of food shared and where it was
6 delivered;
- 7 (4) The number of public schools that have implemented on-
8 site campus composting programs involving students;
- 9 (5) Different composting methods, procedures, and
10 strategies used at different public schools;
- 11 (6) The approximate cost per public school to implement a
12 successful composting program;
- 13 (7) Data regarding waste reduction and any related cost
14 savings at public schools that have implemented
15 successful composting programs; and
- 16 (8) Plans and recommendations to advance the net-zero food
17 waste goal set forth in subsection (a).
- 18 (h) The department shall develop and implement, as
19 practicable, plant-based alternatives to satisfy fifty per cent
20 of protein requirements in meals offered across all public
21 schools annually. Plant-based alternatives shall be sourced



1 from local producers to the maximum extent practicable. The
2 department shall incorporate plant-based diet education,
3 including positive environmental impacts, into its dietary
4 health curriculum to the maximum extent practicable.

5 (i) The report submitted pursuant to subsection (j) shall
6 include information on:

7 (1) The overall progress toward the goal of offering
8 plant-based alternatives for fifty per cent of all
9 protein requirements in meals set forth in subsection
10 (a);

11 (2) The number of public schools offering plant-based
12 alternatives satisfying fifty percent of protein
13 requirements in meals offered annually, or the
14 approximate percentage of protein requirements each
15 school is satisfying;

16 (3) Different plant-based alternatives that have been
17 offered at public schools;

18 (4) plans and recommendations to advance the goal of
19 offering plant-based alternatives to satisfy fifty per
20 cent of protein requirements in meals pursuant to
21 subsection (a).



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1 [†] (j) The department shall report its findings and
2 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 each regular session."

5 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2020



H.B. NO. 2740

Report Title:

DOE; Sustainable Schools Initiative; Food Waste; Compost; Plant-based

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to establish food waste and plant-based alternative meal goals by 1/1/2035, as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative.

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