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# 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 the State's public schools uses  
7 significant resources, including freshwater, fertilizer, and  
8 agricultural land. In addition, this excessive use of food  
9 resources contributes significantly to climate change and the  
10 State's carbon emissions through methane gas emitted in  
11 landfills and carbon dioxide emitted during production and  
12 shipment of food to the State.

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



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

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

9 The legislature additionally 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~~] 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; and



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.

4 The department may also establish the goal of meaningfully  
5 engaging students and incorporating the sustainable schools  
6 initiative elements into 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. The department may work with the department of  
20 health on procedures for the sharing of excess food, on-site  
21 campus composting program, and food waste mitigation.



1        (g) The department shall develop and implement, as  
2 practicable, plant-based alternatives to satisfy fifty per cent  
3 of protein requirements in meals offered across all public  
4 schools annually. Plant-based alternatives shall be sourced  
5 from local producers to the maximum extent practicable. The  
6 department shall incorporate plant-based diet education,  
7 including positive environmental impacts, into its dietary  
8 health curriculum to the maximum extent practicable.

9        [~~f~~] (h) The department shall report its findings and  
10 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
11 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
12 each regular session. The report shall include information on:

- 13        (1) The overall progress toward the net-zero food waste  
14 goal set forth in subsection (a) (2);  
15        (2) The number of public schools sharing excess food with  
16 others who need it;  
17        (3) The approximate amount of food shared and where it was  
18 delivered;  
19        (4) The number of public schools that have implemented on-  
20 site campus composting programs involving students;



- 1        (5) Different composting methods, procedures, and
- 2        strategies used at different public schools;
- 3        (6) The approximate cost per public school to implement a
- 4        successful composting program;
- 5        (7) Data regarding waste reduction and any related cost
- 6        savings at public schools that have implemented
- 7        successful composting programs;
- 8        (8) Plans and recommendations to advance the net-zero food
- 9        waste goal set forth in subsection (a) (2);
- 10       (9) The overall progress toward the goal of offering
- 11       plant-based alternatives for fifty per cent of all
- 12       protein requirements in meals set forth in subsection
- 13       (a) (3);
- 14       (10) The number of public schools offering plant-based
- 15       alternatives satisfying fifty per cent of protein
- 16       requirements in meals offered annually, or the
- 17       approximate percentage of protein requirements each
- 18       school is satisfying;
- 19       (11) Different plant-based alternatives that have been
- 20       offered at public schools; and





1        (12) Plans and recommendations to advance the goal of  
2                    offering plant-based alternatives to satisfy fifty per  
3                    cent of protein requirements in meals pursuant to  
4                    subsection (a) (3)."

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 on July 1, 2050.



**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. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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