
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that establishing a
2 school garden coordinator position placed within the department
3 of education's office of curriculum and instructional design is
4 needed to successfully implement the following purposes of the
5 Hawaii farm to school program set forth by Act 175, Session Laws
6 of Hawaii 2021:

- 7 (1) Improving student health;
8 (2) Developing an educated agricultural workforce; and
9 (3) Accelerating garden and farm-based education for
10 public school students.

11 The legislature further finds that the increased use of
12 learning gardens and farms on school campuses across the State
13 plays a central role in protecting student health, recovering
14 and advancing academic achievement, and strengthening social-
15 emotional well-being. The farm to school program seeks to
16 equitably improve learning, mental and physical health, and
17 happiness for children and adults through the increased use of



1 outdoor educational spaces. This also reduces the burden on
2 indoor classrooms while providing fresh air, hands-on learning
3 opportunities, and the health benefits associated with increased
4 access to nature. A national study of nearly twenty thousand
5 participants revealed that spending two or more hours per week
6 in nature, either all at once or cumulatively, is definitively
7 linked with better health and well-being.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund the
9 position of school garden coordinator, within the department of
10 education's office of curriculum and instructional design, to
11 provide technical support and startup resources for schools
12 interested in starting a school garden program.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for one
16 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position of school
17 garden coordinator to be placed within the department of
18 education's office of curriculum and instructional design;
19 provided that the funds may also be used for expenses related to
20 the provision of technical support and startup resources for
21 schools interested in starting a school garden program.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 education for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Debra A. Kellothi*
JAN 24 2022



H.B. NO. 2013

Report Title:

Department of Education; School Gardens; School Gardens
Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. Makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

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