

Hawaii

Farm to school is a common sense approach to child nutrition and community economic development and is uniquely designed to address the ways in which each of these rates intersects with one another through policy, programming, and partnerships. In Hawaii, the childhood obesity rate is 11.5%,¹ the food insecurity rate is 9.7%,² and the rate of students receiving free and reduced-price meals is 50.1%;³ farm to school can be used to address these issues. In addition, studies show that every dollar spent on local food can generate up to an additional \$2.16 in economic activity,⁴ indicating school districts' local food purchases can lead to over \$1 billion in local economic activity over one school year.⁵

USDA Farm to School Census (School Year 2013-14) in Hawaii

The U.S. Department of Agriculture tracks farm to school activities at the state and school district level.

Hawaii invested \$139,721 in local foods, with the average school district spending 24% of their budget on local products. Of schools that source foods locally:

- 100% of schools source vegetables locally
- 100% of schools source fruit locally
- 44% of schools source milk locally
- 33% of schools source meat or poultry locally

Hawaii ranks 6 out of 50 states in local food purchasing.

The demand for farm to school is growing in Hawaii.



At least 225 school gardens
(88% of K-12 public non-charter schools)

School gardens are used for instruction in:

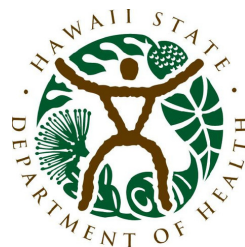
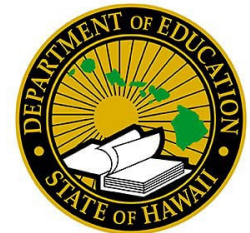
Science (51% of K-12 public schools)

Hawaiian Studies (35%)

Health and Nutrition (29%)

CTE Agriculture (20%)⁶

State Farm to School Network and Organizations in Hawaii



1 National Conference of State Legislatures

2 USDA Economic Research Service

3 National Center for Education Statistics

4 Upstream Public Health

5 USDA Farm to School Census

6 Hawaii Safety and Wellness Survey 2016-2017



Federal Support for Hawaii Farm to School

The USDA administers the Farm to School Grant program, which has awarded the following projects in Hawaii:

2018 - Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative received \$95,308 to enhance food security, sustainability, and enrichment in schools by incorporating more breadfruit into meals and farm to school education. Hawaii State Department of Education received \$100,000 for their farm to school pilot initiative which will develop the collaborative networks required to execute a statewide farm to school initiative.

2016 - Kona Pacific Public Charter School received \$41,785 to conduct an audit of existing farm to school activities and develop a farm to school action plan that incorporates on-site farm and student educational activities.

2015 - The Kohala Center, Inc. received \$99,991 to support farm to school activities.

2013 - Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School received \$44,800 to implement a comprehensive environmental sustainability plan in which a key strand is to grow organic produce, cook and serve it in our cafeteria, and ultimately create a product for the open market.

**Between FY 2013 - FY 2018, Hawaii was awarded 5 of 31 USDA Farm to School grant requests.
Funds awarded total \$384,168 of \$2,365,122 requested.**

Hawaii Farm to School Administrative Efforts

State agency and university extension positions can support farm to school, and do in many states. The following shows FTE devoted to supporting farm to school:

Hawaii has fewer farm to school FTEs than 20 states.

Department of Education (FTE 1)	Department of Agriculture (FTE 1)
Department of Health (FTE 0)	University Extension (FTE 0)

Hawaii Enacted State Farm to School Policies

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2017
S.B. 882 - Designating Farm to School Month in Hawaii | 2014
H.C.R. 92 - Declaring March as Localicious Hawaii Month |
| 2016
S.R. 96 - Designating October as Farm To School Month | 2013
S.B. 327 - Supporting the Purchase and Consumption of Locally Grown Products |
| 2015
S.B. 376 - Relating to a Farm to School Program | 2011
H.C.R. 167 - Requesting a Working Group to Study Child Nutrition and Farm to School Programs |

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy, and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens, and food and agriculture education into schools and early care and education settings.