



Proclamation
In Recognition of
Farm to School Month

WHEREAS, Act 218 of the 2015 Hawai'i State Legislature established a Farm to School Program in the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to coordinate the expansion of farm to school efforts across our state and to develop mutually beneficial programs that join local farmers with school cafeterias; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School Month in Hawai'i coincides with National Farm to School Month, designated by Congress in 2010, to demonstrate the growing importance of farm to school programs as a means to improve child nutrition, encourage diverse careers in agriculture, support local economies, and educate children about the origins of food; and more specifically, celebrates programs that provide fresh local foods for school meals and snacks, increases educational opportunities in agriculture, food, health, and nutrition, and supports learning gardens in schools that connect to core curriculum; and

WHEREAS, this year's national theme, "One Small Step," emphasizes the simple ways one can get involved to support farm to school in their communities and in the nation and brings attention to farm to school and school gardening programs, empowering children and their families to make informed food choices and form lifelong healthy habits while strengthening the local economy and connecting keiki to the 'āina and contributing to the vibrant communities rooted in traditional cultures; and

WHEREAS, Farm to School Month highlights the importance of local agriculture, including the state's priority to support farmers and to double local food production by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau is an organization of Hawai'i farmers committed to ensuring the future of agriculture, increasing awareness of the economics and social contributions that agriculture makes to our island home, promoting the well-being of farming families and contributing to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the 69th Annual Meeting of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau is gathering on October 25-26, 2016 at the Hilton Hawai'i Village;

THEREFORE I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Acting Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October, as

"FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask all the citizens of the Aloha State to continue supporting activities that heighten the awareness of farm to school and school gardening programs as successful means for improving the health and well-being of our keiki, communities, and 'āina.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-fifth day of October 2016.

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Acting Governor, State of Hawai'i