



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture
April 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE
Testimony

SCR 121, SD1 – REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

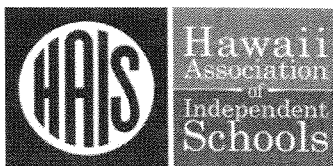
Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am presenting testimony on behalf of Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM).

We support the intent of SCR 121, SD1, as it promotes locally grown food in schools, educates students about food cultivation and healthy eating habits, and supports the local agricultural industry. The measure is also in keeping with the State's initiative to increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency from the current reality of importing to the state upwards of 85% of all food we consume, and relates to CTAHR's vision to actively help Hawaii to diversity its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and strengthen its communities.

We are willing to help facilitate this process in accordance with the purposes of this unfunded mandate, to work with the State Departments of Agriculture and Education, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, and others as appropriate, to convene a working group of stakeholders to consider the feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in our public schools, to develop an appropriate farm to school policy statement, and to submit findings and recommendations to the 2010 Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



April 17, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312

LATE
Testimony

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RE: SCR 121, SD1 - Requesting the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, in Cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, to Convene a Working Group of Stakeholders to Consider the Feasibility of Establishing a Farm to School Program in Hawaii's Public Schools

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 97 private and independent schools statewide that educate over 30,000 elementary and secondary students.

HAIS is in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, Senate Draft 1, which requests that a working group of stakeholders be convened to consider the feasibility of establishing a farm-to-school program in Hawaii's public schools.

The Association is a strong supporter of farm-to-school programs, as we are of the belief that they provide students with unique, real-world opportunities to learn about topics ranging from nutrition and health to agriculture, ecology, environmental sustainability and economics. In addition, they help support the local agriculture industry and provide students with improved meal options by giving school cafeterias access to fresh local produce. To that end, we are currently in conversation with the Department of Agriculture to explore establishing a pilot farm-to-school program involving some of our member schools and local farmers.

As this pilot program appears to be very similar to the program proposed for study by this resolution, we respectfully request that SCR 121 SD1 be amended to include HAIS in the group of stakeholders and that the scope of the group's study of the feasibility of establishing a statewide farm-to-school program be expanded to include implementation at private, as well as public, schools. In light of the parallel efforts already underway within the independent school community, we would like to be formally named in this resolution so that we might collaborate on this effort with the Department of Education and the other stakeholders named therein.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Thomas T Shirai Jr
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Email: Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com

LATE
Testimony

Notice of Hearing
Friday, April 17, 2009
10:00 AM / State Capitol Conference Room 312

House Committee on Agriculture (AGR)
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair/Representative Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

April 16, 2009

RE: Testimony of Strong Support for SCR 121 SD1 (Requesting the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, In Cooperation With The Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation to Convene a Working Group of Stakeholders to Consider the Feasibility of Establishing a Farm to School Program in Hawaii's Public Schools)

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley & Committee Members,

I'm in strong support of SCR 121 SD1. I'm an alumni of *Waialua High & Intermediate School* and was a member of my school's *FFA (Future Farmers of America)* chapter when it was an ICON for 10 years (1976-1986). We were ranked within the top 25 chapters nationwide which comprised of 8800 chapters. During my membership in the *FFA*, I won the state plant identification competition for two consecutive years and was our chapter's *Sentinel (Sgt at Arms)*. Our chapter also produced a recipient the *FFA's* highest award which is the *American Farmer*. Also our chapter has been a recipient of numerous awards regarding *Agri-Business*. Additional credit of chapter is that *Hulihuli Chicken* was invented and originated here in the 1950's for funding our school's interscholastic program.

The *Department of Education (DOE)* implemented a program called *PIP (Pre-Industrial Preparation)* when I attended *WHS*. This program had students who were apart of Industrial Arts which was *Agriculture & Horticulture, Carpentry, Auto Mechanics or Food Service (Home Economics)*. All academic courses (Math, English, Science ect.) were centered about that specific industrial art. It was very successful during that time however *Vocational Agriculture and Horticulure* along with *FFA* is no longer continued at *WHS*. During the *2004 Legislative Session*, Senator *Lorraine Inouye* introduced SB 3195 (*Making An Appropriation To Support The Future Farmers Of America Program In Hawaii*). I would like SCR SD1 be amended to include *FFA* be included in the list of stakeholders. The sentiments and findings of SB 3195 of the *2004 Legislative Session* are found in the committee report (*SSCR2418*).

Agricultural and Horticulture courses offer students an alternative to pursue a career where several legislators started from nationwide and were apart of *FFA (Future Farmers of America)*.

Thomas T Shirai Jr
Mokule'ia, Waialua

FFA WINS THREE NATIONAL AWARDS Includes Coveted Gold Emblem

What appears as a colorful motorcycle gang on campus is actually the blue and gold of the FFA jacket wearers. The jacket, however is not the only interesting aspect of the FFA.

Waialua's FFA has just received notice from the National FFA organization three more awards.

A gold emblem in "Building Our School Community," a silver emblem in the National Chapter Award Program,

and a silver emblem in the National Chapter Safety Award Program were all presented to the FFA this summer.

Waialua is one of 28 to receive the American Community Award out of 8,148 chapters. In the National Chapter Award, Waialua High is one of 114 chapters so honored. In the National Chapter Safety Award Program, Waialua's FFA was one of 34 chapters to receive the emblem.

The FFA is an agriculture and horticulture

aggregate of WHS students. The club is large with sixty members last year alone.

Waialua's FFA has been a superior chapter for seven years. Club activities include projects which are helpful to the community and those which aid members in learning more about agriculture.

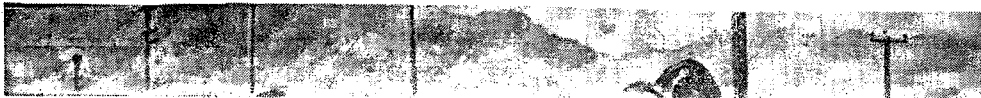
Last year, the FFA gave plant demonstrations to the senior citizens and at the IGA first anniversary celebration. The club donated plants to Waialua

Elementary School and to the Baptist Pre-school plant sale. FFA members also cooked huli-huli chicken for the PTA and Booster Club.

The FFA plans on continuing many of the same activities this school year. The FFA is advised by Mr. Noel Kawachi. Mr. Kawachi feels that, "It's a great accomplishment to be good in both competition on local and national levels. I hope we do as well this year."

THE Waialuan

Volume 64, Issue I Waialua High & Intermediate School October 13, 1978



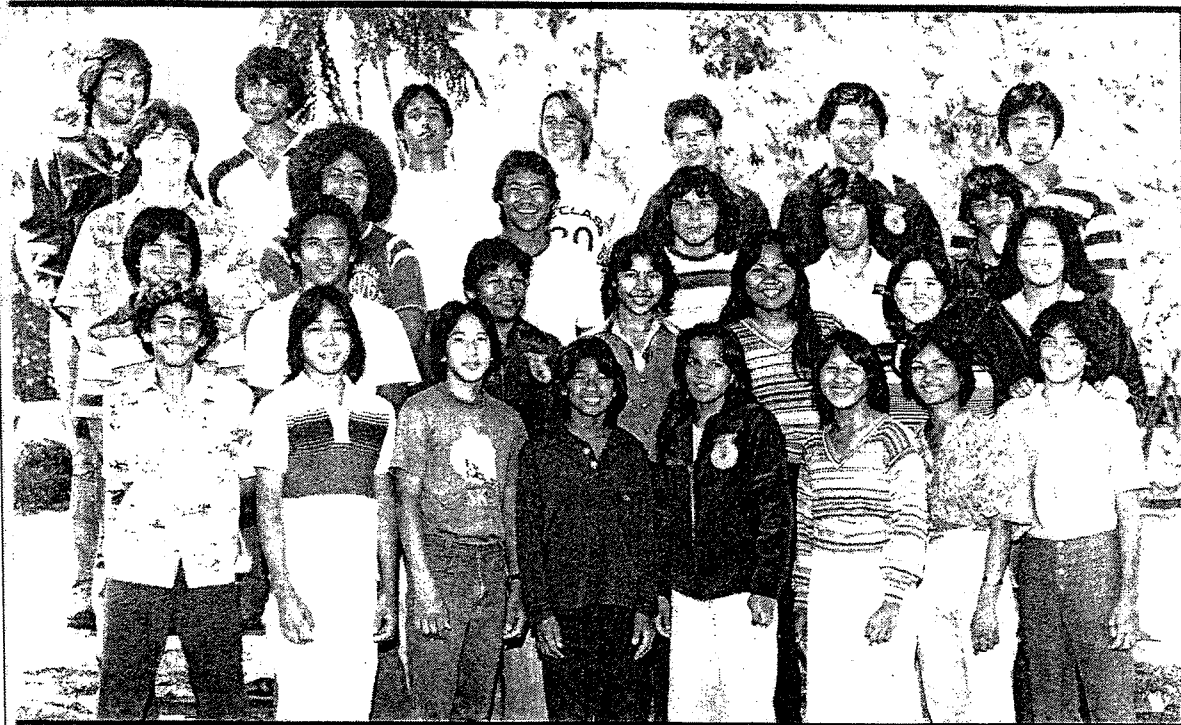
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



The Future Farmers of America, under the capable advisorship of Mr. Noel Kawachi, experienced a very successful year. For outstanding accomplishments in agriculture the group earned many prestigious awards. The most converted was the BOAC Gold Emblem Award which was given to only twenty five chapters out of the eight thousand in the U.S. The chapter also earned the National Chapter Bronze Award and the National Chapter Safety Silver Emblem. Proficiency Awards were given to Milton Hoopai (Agricultural Business), Bobby Lausterer (Home Improvement), and Theresa Perreira (Horse Proficiency).

Senior Justin Godbehere, a State Officer, was honored as the Star State Farmer and was the delegate to the National FFA Convention at Kansas.

Front-President Kevin Asato. Center-Secretary Milton Hoopai. Reporter Randall Hoopai, Treasur Robert Lausterer. Top: Sentinel Thomas Shirai.



Row 1-Milton Hoopai, Earl Chun, Rory Suan, Glen Fujishige, Anna Lorenzo, Ichisa Dabin, Luz Rabang, Randall Hoopai. Row 2-Lee Yamauchi, Gary Marcos, Iana Kahoonei, Betty Meyer, Natalie Galicinao, Elnora Kobayashi, Tymmie

Keala, Row 3-Jerome Vierra, Mark Young, Dean Mark, John Ross, Kevin Asato, Michael Felix. Row 4-Timothy Chun, Robert Lausterer, Mitchell Ortiz, Paul Cheape, Thomas Shirai, Keith Yokotake

Waiialua High & Intermediate School - Ho'omana'o - 1979

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2004

RE: S.B.
No. 3195

S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2004
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 3195 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA PROGRAM IN HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funding to support Future Farmers of America programs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the measure from the Department of Education and a former member of Future Farmers of America at Waialua High and Intermediate School. Your Committee also received comments from the Board of Agriculture.

Your Committee finds that Future Farmers of America is an organization that not only encourages excellence in farming, but promotes leadership, confidence, self-esteem, and perseverance as well.

Your Committee has amended the measure to note that this valuable program is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary nation-wide.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3195, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3195, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted
on behalf of the members
of the Committee on
Water, Land, and
Agriculture,

LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair