

SCR 147

**EDT-EDH-
WTL-HRE**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 03/19/2010

Committee: Senate Economic
Development and Technology
Senate Education and Housing
Senate Higher Education
Senate Water, Land, Agriculture and
Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 147/SR 67 Convening a Working Group to Examine Farm to School
Models

Purpose of Resolution: Convening a working group to examine farm to school models.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 147/SR 67 which requests the Senate Committees on Economic Development and Technology; Higher Education; and Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, the House Committees on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs; Higher Education; and Agriculture convene a working group to examine farm to school models; and that the examination include local models; and proposals for a pilot farm school program for each island. The Department recommends that the language of the Senate Concurrent Resolution be revised to insure that the working group include representatives from the Department.



To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Economic Development and Technology, Chair
Senator Sakamoto, Education and Housing, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, Chair

Date: March 19, 2010, 1:15 pm, Room 225

Re: SCR 147/SR 67, Convening a Working Group to Examine Farm to School Models

My name is Jennifer Dang, State Director of the Hawaii Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition. NPAC is project currently housed in the Office of Public Health Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and is funded by the Department of Health, Healthy Hawaii Initiative.

My organization's mission is to look for ways to improve the health of Hawaii's people by changing or creating policies, systems and/or environments so that ALL Hawaii residents can eat healthy, nourishing food and enjoy daily physical activity and exercise. Our coalition is mobilizing on each island, and has over 100 member organizations working together to tackle difficult problems surrounding nutrition and physical activity.

NPAC supports SCR 147 and SR 67.

NPAC's Nutrition Task Force members from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation AINA IS program, Office of Child Nutrition, the University of Hawaii CTAHR, Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education have been working for many months on the issues surrounding Farm to School in Hawaii.

Specifically, there is great interest on the Big Island in piloting a Farm to School initiative with the schools in the Waimea community. The Kohala Center recently submitted a Wallace HUFED – Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center grant to conduct a Farm to School Feasibility Study to learn more about the specific barriers towards implementing a Farm to School program.

There is truly a need for collaboration between the public and private sectors in our community. NPAC would be honored to work with a Legislative Working Group on the issues surrounding Farm to School in Hawaii.

Let's Move, Hawaii!

Jennifer Dang, State Director of NPAC

Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: kathie pomeroy [npacgoodlife@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 7:49 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SCR 147 & SR 67, DATE: Friday, March 19, 2010 TIME:1:15 p.m.

RE: SCR 147 & SR 67, DATE: Friday, March 19, 2010 TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Honorable Legislators:

As the West HI coordinator for NPAC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition) of Hawaii County, are writing to express our support of SCR 147 & SR 67 which provide an initial policy step in supporting the health of our students and the ag economy of our county and state. These Resolutions enhance the food security of Hawaii.

NPAC is a statewide organization under the Hawaii Dept. of Health, Healthy Hawaii Initiative, the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Office of Public Health Studies. NPAC supports policy, environmental and systems changes necessary to improve the health of Hawaii's residents. SCR 147/SR67 are fundamentally beneficial to the public health of our state.

NPAC is networking with other organizations on the county, state, and national level to make the Farm-to-School (FTS) initiative a reality in Hawaii, as it already is in many states. Michelle Obama supports this work with her recent "Let's Move" campaign. Childhood obesity is a tremendous problem in Hawaii and, unless addressed, could cost Hawaii dearly in quality of life health care expenses. Farm-to-School initiatives address this problem directly by improving the quality of food for our students.

Last Tuesday the "Growing FTS Programs Act" was introduced by Senators Patrick Leahy (VT) and A. Specter (PA). This bill would be integrated into the Child Nutrition Act and allocate \$50 million in start up funds to local schools and districts through grants in connecting school food service providers with local small and medium sized farms for efficient and cost-effective purchase of locally produced foods for school lunches.

Nationally, most farmers earn 20 cents of every food dollar Americans spend. FTS farmers might earn as much as 60-70 cents on each dollar. A 2009 Oregon study found that every dollar invested in FTS projects triggered \$1.87 in local economic activity.

School lunches provide a significant market for Hawaii farmers and save tremendous expenses in transport energy. There are many hurdles to address in the FTS process, which could take at least five years or longer to accomplish. However, such obstacles can be overcome when policy makers provide their support for agricultural endeavors at every opportunity.

In Hawaii County, FTS Res. 305-10 just passed committee on Tues. and will be heard by the County Council on April 7th. This Res. supports initiating the intricate and lengthy process of implementing FTS in Hawaii County. We must work together on the county, state, and national levels for this daunting but possible, and indeed necessary, task. It is a food security issue as well.

Hawaii has an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to FTS work and supporting our agricultural economy by passing these resolutions. Please contact me if you have further questions. Our state website is www.npachawaii.org.

Sincerely,

Kathie Pomeroy, N.D.

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Kathie Pomeroy, N.D. (Naturopathic Physician)

West Hawaii County Coordinator

NPAC: Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition of Hawaii County

A Project of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa

Office of Public Health Studies, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Phone: (808) 315-0547

www.npachawaii.org



March 18, 2010
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND HOUSING,
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: SCR 147 – Convening a Working Group to Examine Farm to School Models

Chairs Fukunaga, Sakamoto, Hee and Tokuda; Vice Chairs Baker and Kidani; and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, and I am executive director of the Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawai‘i and educates over 33,000 elementary and secondary students statewide.

HAIS is in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 147, which convenes a working group to consider the feasibility of establishing farm-to-school models in Hawai‘i’s public schools.

The Association is a strong supporter of farm-to-school programs as 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.

We respectfully request that SCR 147 be amended to include the following members in the proposed working group: University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools, The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union, Kokua Foundation, MA‘O Organic Farms, The Kohala Center, Mālama Kaua‘i, Sustainable Living Institute on Maui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 8:13 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/EDH/WTL/ 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR147

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Gottlieb
Organization: Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Address:
Phone: 808-306-7769
E-mail: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2010

Comments:

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: debbie millikan [eatlocalhawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:17 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: Support for SCR147 and SR67

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Eat Local Hawaii

eatlocalhawaii@gmail.com

www.eatlocalhawaii.org

3022 Hibiscus Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96815

March 18, 2010

Support for SCR 147 and SR67 (Convening a working group to examine farm to school models)

Friday, March 19, 2010

1:15pm

Conference Room 225

This Senate resolution calls for the formation of a working group to ultimately bring local foods to our schools thereby supporting local agriculture as well as improving the eating habits of students. With childhood obesity at an all-time high, we need programs such as Farm to School to educate our children and their families about eating healthy. In addition, this resolution supports a sustainable Hawaii, mitigates environmental impacts due to transporting foods, and attempts to alleviate security concerns associated with food dependence.

Eat Local Hawaii is an online resource for consumers that provides sources for local ingredients, identifies restaurants and businesses that support local agriculture, and serves to educate consumers about our food economy and healthy eating. We believe this resolution is a step in the right direction by addressing these major issues. We can support our local economy and help our children eat healthy through one program, farm to school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of resolutions SCR 147 and SR67.



March 18, 2010

Committees on Economic Development & Technology; Education & Housing; Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs; and Higher Education

Submitted to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>

RE: Support of SCR147 and SR67 Convening a Working Group to Examine Farm to School Models. Hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 2010, Conference Room 225.

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of SCR147 and SR67, Convening a Working Group to Examine Farm to School Models. Thank you for considering this important measure.

Farm to school programs can have many interrelated positive impacts: keeping dollars and jobs in Hawai'i; providing fresh, nutritious produce to students; instilling healthy eating habits in Hawai'i's keiki; supporting Hawai'i's farmers; keeping agricultural lands intact; and reducing our dependence on imported food.

Still, there are many data gaps that must be filled in order for Hawai'i schools to make significant, large-scale progress in this arena. A farm to school working group can gather information and develop resources and plans that individual schools, the statewide educational system, farmers, and distributors need in order to increase the amount of fresh, locally grown produce provided in school lunches. Pilot programs developed in partnership with the Farm to School Working Group will be invaluable in demonstrating how the goal of increased locally sourced food in schools can be achieved.

'AINA In Schools aims to connect children to their food system through school gardens, classroom nutrition lessons, farm field trips, and locally sourced school food. Our staff is available for consultation and sharing of our experiences and resources with the working group.

In addition to the local contacts I have here, I am the Hawai'i representative to the National Farm to School Network's Western Region. I communicate regularly with leaders in the national farm to school movement and would be happy to connect the working group with these experts.

I humbly ask you to support SCR147 and SR67 and farm to school in Hawai'i. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about our program.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kaliko Amona
Program Coordinator
'AINA In Schools Program
Kokua Hawai'i Foundation



2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

TESTIMONY

Re: SCR 147 / SR67 CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE FARM TO SCHOOL MODELS

Chair Fukunaga, Chair Sakamoto, Chair Hee, Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

HFBF on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations strongly supports SCR147, Convening a working group to examine farm to school models.

Agriculture can play a role in improving school lunches. However, this can only happen if there is a true collaborative effort between the schools, procurement systems, food preparation entrepreneurs and farmers. Selling fresh produce, fruits, meats, eggs and milk alone to schools is not what Farm To School is about. It should also include a value added production systems that will make user friendly dishes using locally grown products for schools. New mechanisms to increase funding for purchase of food by schools outside of dependence of General Funds is also important.

I personally have been involved in a situation on Maui where the students begged for salads . Last year, the Student Council came before the Legislature asking for a farm to school program. I know the demand is there. It is our responsibility to find a way to provide healthy meals to our children.

The Report to the 2010 Legislature by the University of Hawaii on a Farm to School Feasibility Study identifies some of the challenges. It reports on the effort by HFBF to address the procurement system. It states that only 1 of 650 farmers sell via the procurement program. HFBF is in the process of developing a training program for our farmers and ranchers of how to access the program. Recently, I worked with the Public Safety Office on an RFP to farmers and ranchers to provide agricultural products to the prison system. We were given less than two weeks to respond. The forms were new to our people and many had no clue how to fill out the documents. Others even if they were interested did not have the resources to complete the forms. There is much to be done.

HFBF is intent on making this process work. We look forward to cooperating with the various agencies on coming up with solutions. We respectfully request your support of this measure and a timely appointment of members of the working group so work can commence on this important project. If there are any questions, please contact me, Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 2:04 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/EDH/WTL/ 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR147

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kobayashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

Aloha to the committee chairs and committee members.

I support SCR147 and SR67. Local and fresh food for school lunches, should also include taro, ulu, sweet potatoes. I would also like to see school gardens that use non chemical practices, be implemented so that the harvest is served for school lunches. This way, each school can become more able to feed themselves rather than relying on other farms. Here is the real education when it is hands on.

Real satisfaction when the students get to eat what they had a hand in growing.

The experience puts them back in touch with the earth and how we should take care of her so that she can continue to provide for us.

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 2:26 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/EDH/WTL/ 3/19/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR147

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kobayashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

aloha,

i sent in testimony but forgot to add that i hope that the appointed working group consist of members of the entities that are the models that already have the experience providing healthy local food for school lunches.

mahalo.

fukunaga3 - Doris

From: Tova Callender [tovacallender@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 1:16 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: SR 67 & 147 testimony

Testimony for SR 67 & SCR 147- Convening a working group to examine farm to school models
Convening: Friday March 19, 2010, 1:15pm

Honorable Senators Fukunaga, Baker, Sakamoto, Kidani, Hee, Tokuda and committee members,

Thank you for proposing action in the area of farm to school programs. We have every reason to make the connection between our land and local economy, and our children who are in dire need of improved school lunches. I am a professional in the agricultural sector and fully support creating an additional steady market for local growers. Creating a market connection between schools and local farmers could spur the growth in the sector needed to create important steps towards island food security.

I believe that anyone who knew that schools are serving “food like substances” from a factory rather than real food grown in a farm would stand firmly behind solving the disconnect that currently keeps healthy food out of our school system.

Thank you for supporting the forming of a working group to examine farm to school models, and hopefully putting us on a course where we provide improved nutritional support for our kids and market support to our growers.

Respectfully submitted,
Tova Callender
Kihei, HI
214-4239