



LATE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011 1:15 PM,
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY
AND AGRICULTURE

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1451, FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Nishihara and Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation's strong support of HB 1475, with the minor amendments suggested below.

My name is Kaliko Amona and am the director of the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation's 'AINA In Schools Program, a farm to school program dedicated to connecting children to their land, waters, and food in order to grow a healthier Hawai'i. I also represent the National Farm to School Network as the Hawai'i State Lead. Together with organizations such as the Hawai'i School Garden Hui, which includes School Garden Networks on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Island, as well as the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools' Grow Hawai'i Farm to School Initiative and the Healthy Hawai'i Initiative, we are working to promote the farm to school and school garden movement in the state.

In 2010, the United States Congress passed House Resolution 1655, which established October as National Farm to School Month. This bill recognizes Farm to School programs as a "proven effective strategy that can provide immediate and longer-term benefits to child health, small and medium-sized agricultural producer income, and community economic development."

Passing House Bill 1475 will provide further recognition of the value and priority of farm to school initiatives and help to raise awareness and garner support for farm to school initiatives in Hawai'i and beyond.

The only minor changes I suggest to the bill are:

Page 1, Line 9: ~~The Farm to School programs provides~~ (There are multiple "programs" utilizing the farm to school approach.)

Page 2, Lines 11-13: Kokua Hawai'i Foundation's 'AINA In Schools (Actively Integrating Nutrition & Agriculture In Schools) Program' (This is the official name for the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation and 'AINA In Schools.)

We appreciate your continued support of the farm to school movement in Hawai'i and ask you support House Bill 1475.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kaliko Amona
'AINA In Schools Program Director



Hawaii Farm Bureau
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LATE

February 24, 2011

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 1451
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Room 016
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), the largest non-profit agriculture advocacy organization in the state with approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members is in **strong support** of SB 1451, which seeks to designate October as Farm to School Month in Hawaii.

HFBF believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

HFBF supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. This initiative is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to having well informed consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.