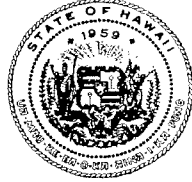


SCR66



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SCR 66, REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO
DETERMINE HOW TO EXPAND SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAMS
STATEWIDE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 30, 2011; 1:20 PM

1 **Department's Position:** Supports

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this resolution is for the Department of Health's Healthy
4 Hawaii Initiative (DOH HHI) to convene a school garden task force to explore ways to expand school
5 gardens statewide. School garden programs may include, but are not limited to, garden-based nutrition
6 education, or providing fruits and vegetables for classroom activities, school meals, school snacks, or
7 fundraising.

8 The DOH supports nutrition programs in schools and communities to improve the health
9 behaviors of youth and adults. The DOH HHI partners with the Department of Education and
10 community agencies to promote school gardens to improve youth fruit and vegetable consumption and
11 supports the resolution to facilitate discussions on expanding school gardens.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Date: 03/30/2011

Committee: Senate Education
Senate Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 066 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE HOW TO EXPAND SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAMS STATEWIDE

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the convening of a task force to determine how to expand school gardens programs statewide.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 66 as long as this does not detract from the Department's priorities and recommends that the Task Force participants include a representative from the Attorney General's Office. The Department appreciates that the Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative will convene the Task Force, as well as, coordinate and prepare the Task Force report to the 2012 Legislature. The Department will cooperate with the Task Force to determine how best to expand school gardens programs statewide.

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dr. William Moekahi Steiner, Dean, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, UHH

Organization: College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management UH Hilo

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: steiner@hawaii.edu

Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

The College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management at UH-Hilo is separate from CTAHR at UH Manoa. It would appear, although we have been working on the Big Island by helping teachers and helping mobilize support for K-12 gardens, that we have been left off of the Task Force SCR. We support this SCR and would like to have a seat at the table when this topic is discussed since we are located on the Big Island, have been working to support this concept for over two years on the Big Island while CTAHR has been working elsewhere, and are very close to the schools involved. Our primary reason to support it is that the next generation of farmers are dependent on creating interest at an early age in agriculture, and a major focus at the DOE needs to be organized that addresses agriculture alone.



The Official Sponsor of Birthdays

March 28, 2011

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing:

March 30, 2011, 2:20 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225

**RE: SCR66 – REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE
HOW TO EXPAND SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS STATEWIDE.**

Testimony in Strong Support

Chairs Tokuda and Green, and members of the joint Committees. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in strong support of SCR66, which request the establishment of a task force to explore expansion of a school gardens program statewide.

For over 60 years, the American Cancer Society in Hawaii has been leading the battle against cancer. We have made much progress in saving lives through early detection and new cutting edge treatments as a result of ongoing research. Research has shown that obesity increases the risk of multiple health conditions, including diabetes, hypertension and number of cancers. Encouraging healthy eating habits is a cost effective method that will in the long run reduce both childhood obesity and adult obesity.

As the committees know, obesity is a serious health concern for children and adolescents. Results from the 2007-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, using measured heights and weights, indicate that an estimated 17% of children and adolescents ages 2-19 years are obese. Among pre-school age children 2-5 years of age, obesity increased from 5 to 10.4%; among 6-11 year olds from 6.5 to 19.6%; and among adolescents aged 12-19 from 5 to 18.1%.

Hawaii has not been immune from the obesity epidemic. One way to address this growing problem is the establishment of a school gardens program. California implemented a school gardens program in 2006 with the awarding of \$15 million in grants to establish the Garden in Every School Program as way to guide children toward healthier lifestyles by creating a healthy nutrition environment.

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc., 2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1714
•Phone: (808) 595-7500 •Fax: (808) 595-7502 •24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 •<http://www.cancer.org>

Clearly, schools with a healthy nutrition environment, such as a school garden, foster improved student health. Students who participate in school garden projects discover fresh food, make healthier food choices, and are physically active. **Anecdotal evidence is strong - teachers relate that students eat what they grow. Research corroborates this - children who plant and harvest their own fruits and vegetables are more likely to eat them.**

We think that SCR66, is a very good first step in combating childhood obesity in Hawaii, and hopefully, will become a key component in fostering social norms change, resulting in a healthier Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding this important issue. We would urge the committee to pass this measure.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



Wednesday, March 30, 2011

1:20 PM

Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HEALTH

RE: SCR66 – Requesting the convening of a task force to determine how to expand school gardens programs statewide

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Green, Vice Chairs Kidani and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees,

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

HAIS supports SCR 66 and finds that the aspirations expressed in this measure are aligned with the goals of our own new farm-to-school initiative, GROW HAWAII.

GROW HAWAII is a member of the Hawaii School Garden Hui that is dedicated to addressing educational needs in agricultural sustainability by supporting existing school gardens, implementing new school gardens, and integrating locally grown and made foods into cafeterias, snack programs, and after school programs with community involvement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



March 28, 2011

Testimony in Support: SCR 66

Dear Chair Green, Vice-Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, and Vice-Chair Kidani,

On behalf of the 58 schools on Hawai'i Island that are currently working to build and integrate school gardens and garden based learning into the curriculum, over 4,000 students that are currently involved in those programs, and the 35 Garden and Agriculture Teachers, I wish to enthusiastically support the intention and the actions that will arise from the passage of SCR 66.

With broad representation from the Task Force Members, we will hopefully be able to identify shared interests and visions, and work to expand and support the integration of School Garden Programs into the curriculum of our schools statewide.

Over the past 3 years, School Garden Networks and Coordinators have formed on all islands, and the newly formed Hawai'i School Garden Hui will be meeting regularly throughout the year to discuss shared needs and pathways to useful curriculum development and professional teacher training programs for both School Garden Educators and Class Teachers.

Our children's health, well-being, academic achievement, and the future of agriculture and food production in the state would be greatly enhanced through the passage of this Resolution, the meetings of the Task Force, and the implementation of recognition and support for this grassroots movement arising from Principals, Faculty, Parents, and community across the state.

I would like to recommend that all members of the Hawai'i School Garden Hui be members of the Task Force.

Sincerely,

Nancy Redfeather
Program Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/about.html

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Pohai Patterson

Organization: Kalanianaʻōle School

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: pohaip@hawaii.edu

Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

Sustainable diversified agriculture is a missing economy here in Hawai‘i which leaves us highly dependent on unstable and often environmentally degrading industries like tourism and monocrop agriculture. We need to educate our youth how to break into this missing economy which has the potential to address climate change, conserve our natural and cultural resources, and address health issues that plague our state and the nation. School gardens and agriculture programs need to be reinstated in schools to “grow more farmers.” Please support this bill which will allow our communities to move towards a better and brighter future.

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Colleen Carroll, Ed.D.

Organization: NatureTalks, LLC

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: colleen@naturetalks.net

Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Supporting the integration of in-classroom studies with the outdoors and an institutionalized farm to school food program will not only improve the health of our children, but of all the teachers, parents and community that surround our schools. There is great support for these initiatives across our state and our nation, and it is time to fully support this initiative in Hawaii.

With Aloha, Colleen Carroll, Ed.D. Author - Growing an Educational Garden at Your School: A Study of the Hawaii Experience

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kathie Pomeroy, N.D.

Organization: Hawaii County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: npacgoodlife@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

Re: SCR66

The Hawaii County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition (NPAC: www.npachawaiicounty.com/) supports this bill. It addresses multiple initial steps to accomplish the bigger picture of addressing obesity and food security in the state, which is an immense undertaking. The beauty of this bill is that it supports communication among various public and NGO entities, thus building capacity to accomplish the bigger tasks noted in the whereas statements of this bill. Expansion of school gardens statewide is something that can be accomplished fairly quickly in comparison to those larger issues. Supporting school gardens improves academic performance for future non-farmers and is a simple venue to spark interest and train potential future farmers. Student nutrition and physical activity opportunities are also greatly enhanced. SCR66 is likely to save the state money in the long run by reducing chronic disease and dependence on an import economy. In the short run, it costs the state nothing to implement. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathie Pomeroy, N.D.

Hawaii County NPAC Coordinator

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurel Pikcunas
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pikcunas@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

Dear Congressperson,

I am very much in support of the passing of SCR66. I am a senior undergraduate student at UH Manoa and a Hawaii Resident.

Expanding school gardening programs is important to me and my peers because we believe that establishing sustainability in Hawaii and teaching our keiki (from that very young age) about composting, growing and harvesting will most definitely lead to a brighter future for Hawaii. Also, the passing of this bill will be another inspiration for more people to take action to ensure food security in the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for hearing our voice,

Sincerely,
Laurel Pikcunas

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES STRUWE
NEW, PART TIME SOILLESS GARDNER FARMER

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

1:20 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 225

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 66

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE HOW TO
EXPAND SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAMS STATEWIDE

Chairpersons Tokuda and Green and Vice Chairpersons Kidani and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.C.R. 66.

I strongly support this resolution.

In addition to the seven statements in S.C.R. 66 with which I agree, I would add the following four statements to the resolution:

WHEREAS, candidate and now Governor Abercrombie pledged his support for individual participation in an agricultural renaissance through school, community, and family gardens; and

WHEREAS, school gardens will be agricultural research stations which will foster the study of the science, technology, engineering and math of plant propagation and food production; and

WHEREAS, school gardens will be able to utilize one or more of the major technologies for plant propagation and food production – traditional, natural, conventional, organic, hydroponic, aquaponic, and cooled soil; and

WHEREAS, school gardeners will be able to compare and contrast the results of utilizing the various plant propagation and food production technologies and contribute to the knowledge base of all gardeners in Hawaii – school, community, family and farm.

With these statements in mind, I respectfully suggest that the Task Force participants include more practicing school, community, family and farm gardeners who are currently utilizing one or more of the plant propagation and food production technologies from each of the Islands.

I also respectfully request that copies of the Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and members of the City Council of each of the Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution and lend my strong support.

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ming Wei Koh

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: mwkoh@kohalacenter.org

Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

I am the Garden Teacher at Kohala Elementary School, and am studying the effects of the school garden experience on student learning and general learner outcomes. School gardens can impact the curricular learning environment, physical learning environment and social learning environment.

All these will support academic achievement, life skills acquisition and community building.

Please support this movement.

Koh Ming Wei

Testimony for HTH/EDU 3/30/2011 1:20:00 PM SCR66

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Penny Levin

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members;

As a taro farmer, students, teachers and resource people request to visit my patches every month. There is a constant dialogue about the need to create more opportunities for students to connect to learning how to grow food so that future generations are better prepared to be more self-sufficient in Hawaii. The School Gardens Program is an essential part of reaching that goal. Hawaii island has been a leader in the school gardens program effort; the other islands would benefit from increased support. Helping teachers find ways to use garden projects to meet state DOE benchmarks and standards will aid the growth of the program. At the turn of the century, the Hilo Boys School grew tremendous amounts of food and not only fed all its students but also raised monies to run and maintain the school in that manner. With shrinking DOE budgets, school gardens have the potential to contribute to fresher, healthier meals on campuses along with reducing the cost of providing school lunches. Please support this bill.

Mahalo.