

HB1380

HD3

Date: 03/18/2011

Committee: Senate Agriculture
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1380,HD3(hscr718) RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Establishes the Hawaii-grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and appropriates funds for the Program to increase school children's access to Hawaii produce. Establishes the Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB1380 HD3) (\$) .

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports HB 1380, HD3. The Department appreciates the amendments made to the original bill.

With regards to the cost of the fresh fruit and vegetable program, the DOE notes the following: factoring the 85 eligible schools (not including the schools participating in the federal program), enrollment in qualifying schools, times the minimum cost per student, the projected general fund baseline appropriation requirement will be \$2.8 million annually. This is based on the United States Department of Agriculture FFVP criterion of approximately \$63 million cost would be additional full- and part-time positions: grant manager, procurement specialist, data entry clerk, accountant, and cafeteria helpers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

1:30 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 225

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1380, H.D. 3
RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE**

Chairpersons Tokuda and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1380, H.D. 3. The purpose of this bill is to establish a farm-to-school program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables; to establish the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program and appropriate funds for the program to increase school children's access to Hawaii-grown produce; and to establish the farmers to food banks pilot program.

The Department of Agriculture supports the overall intent of this bill to increase procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables by public schools and recognizes that this measure could potentially support local farmers and leverage an increase in food self-sufficiency within the state.

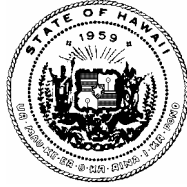
In the current business environment, school procurement is driven by competitive prices of commodities to meet minimum administrative requirements. Locally grown commodities from smaller farms (with higher input costs) usually lack the volume,

consistency and price points to compete effectively. Additionally, many of our local farmers need to learn and to adopt food safety standards, practices and a better understanding of state procurement processes. While local fruits and vegetables are arguably fresher, more flavorful, and nutritious, the knowledge gap between institutional buyers and local farmers are still far apart.

While the Department would like to bridge this gap, it does not currently have the capacity, or required personnel to support a successful undertaking of the tasks and expectations as outlined in this measure.

The Department remains a steadfast supporter of the “Buy Local” concept; however, due to the complexity of this issue regarding food safety certification, the Department respectfully suggests that this measure be addressed by a taskforce comprised of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1380, H.D. 3 - RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE**

Hearing: Friday, March 18, 2011; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to: 1) establish the farm-to-school program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables; 2) establish the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program and appropriate funds for the program to increase school children's access to Hawaii produce; and 3) allow the Department of Human Services to establish the farmers to food banks pilot program with Hawaii farmers to provide Hawaii-grown produce to low-income people through designated food banks.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill. The Department, however, cannot support SECTION 2 of this bill which would have DHS establish the farmers to food banks pilot program.

DHS has no experience or expertise in the actual production or distribution of produce as would be required by Section 2 of this bill.

The Department of Human Services is responsible for determining eligibility and issuing benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. The SNAP provides low-income households with electronic benefits they can use like cash at most grocery stores to purchase food and maintain a healthy diet.

DHS recommends that administration of the farmers to food banks pilot program in SECTION 2 of this bill be placed in an agency that that has more agricultural expertise, including working with Hawaii farmers, agricultural distribution systems, and the Hawaii food banks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



Friday, March 18, 2011
1:30PM
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE

RE: HB 1380 HD3 – Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Chair Tokuda and Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, 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 House Bill 1380 HD3 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.



Poamoho Organic Produce
PO Box 728
Waialua HI 96791
808-637-4555

info@poamoho-organic.com

March 16, 2011

To: Senate Committee Education
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Re: Hearings on March 18th, 1:30 pm, Rm 225
Subject: Testimony Regarding HB 198 & HB 1380

Aloha Committee Chairs and Committee Members,

I am an organic farmer on the North Shore of Oahu and President of the Hawaii Center for Organic Farming. Please accept my updated testimony on the subject Bills.

In regard to both HB 198 & HB 1380 - To authorize school gardens and to establish a Farm-to-School Program: Whereas the intent of these Bills is to improve education about growing the food we eat and the connection between schools and farms, there is a huge impediment built into the words that will undermine implementation; that being the requirement for food safety certification (FSC). Like Mr. Dean Okimoto of Nalo Farms, my farm too is food safety certified and will undergo the 2011 inspection next week. So, I understand the concern for food safety because I do it, however there is little understanding of the actual certification process that is not reflected in these Bills.

Please consider the following facts about the current FSC system:

- it was designed by a mainland distributor for its huge mono-culture farms of leafy greens; no such farms exist in Hawaii;
- only 40 out of 7500 farms in Hawaii are FSC; this creates an "elite 40" and excludes 99.5% of our farms from the programs of these Bills;
- it is onerous, ineffective and out of step with the new federal Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011;
- it does not mean safe food; does not prevent rat lung worm disease and does not guarantee against liability;
- it is expensive and could cost between \$400-\$500 for each school plot;
- it is tedious and will require many hours, special training and additional duties for a union employee.

The answer is to first establish a Hawaii State-designed FSC system (see HB 667), that is prudent yet practical and meets the needs of students and farmers alike. Mahalo.

Al Santoro



TO: Sen. Jill Tokuda, Education Committee, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Education Committee, Vice Chair
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Agriculture Committee, Chair
Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Agriculture Committee, Vice Chair

DATE: March 18, 2011, 1:30 pm, Room 225

RE: Support of HB1380HD3, Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Thank you for the opportunity to provide suggestions on streamlining this bill and to assure that the language of the bill encourages and not hinders school garden initiatives.

As House committees recognized, there are four components to this bill.

- Part 1 establishes the Farm-to-School program in the Department of Agriculture to increase procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables.
- Part 2 establishes a Hawaii Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program in the Department of Education to facilitate consumption of Hawaii-produces nutritious snacks
- Part 3 authorizes school to grow gardens for consumption in their school lunch and part of the FFV program, provided all food produced from school garden is food safety certified.
- Part 4 says that the DHS may establish the Farmers to Food Bank Pilot Project in cooperation with the DOA to provide more Hawaii grown produce to low-income people.

Although very worthy projects, given the billion dollar shortfall legislators are facing to balance the state budget, we recommend that Parts 2 and 4 of HB1380HD3 be eliminated to lessen the appropriation needed.

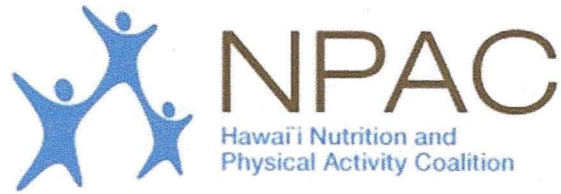
- Recommend eliminating the Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program from HB1380HD3 since the current USDA FFV program already allows for the purchase of locally grown produce at market rate.
- Recommend eliminating Farmers to food banks pilot program since the DHS has no funds to support the program

We strongly recommend that members focus on Part 1, establishing a Farm-to-School (F2S) program within the Department of Agriculture, and as Oregon has done, within the Department of Education as well. We feel that there currently exists funds from 2010 Barrel Tax, Act 73, Sessions law of Hawaii, for agriculture development and food security special fund that can support this process. We recommend that a F2S coordinator can initiate a small pilot program to focus on procurement issues and other barriers with a few select schools, rather than the whole DOE system and that if possible, schools in this small pilot program will have more flexibility to procure locally grown produce more often.

Secondly, the language in Part 3 regarding all food produced from school gardens be food safety certified is unfairly restrictive. There are both large high school agriculture programs found at Kahuku, Leilehua, Campbell and Mililani high schools that might produce enough product for their school lunch program, but there are also small classroom gardens in elementary schools. I recommend that there be clarification that: 1) only gardens that provide fruits and vegetables for the USDA school lunch or USDA fresh fruit and vegetable program be food safety certified. Small gardens that just provide in-class cooking, tastings or fresh herbs, should not be required to have a food safety certified garden. Please don't hesitate to call me at 956-6451 if I can answer any more questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dang, MPH
NPAC State Director



RE: HB1380 HD3 Establishes a farm-to-school program in the department of education to increase the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables....

Before the Senate Committee on EDU/AGL

Thursday, March 18, 2011

Time 1:30pm

Conference Room 225

Position: In Support, with Proposed Amendments

Organization: Hawaii County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

Testifier: Kathie Pomeroy, Hawaii County NPAC Coordinator,
Hawaii County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition:
www.npachawaiicounty.com
A Project of the John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Office of Public Health Studies
Testimony submitted on 3/17/11

Aloha Chairs Senator Nishihara and Senator Tokuda, and Members of both Committees,

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition (NPAC) works statewide to address the obesity epidemic and concomitant diseases by advancing policies that enable people to make healthier diet and exercise choices. In Hawaii County, NPAC promotes ease of implementation of the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and promotion of Hawaii grown produce to elementary school students via the USDA FFVP program. We work with the Office of Hawaii Child Nutrition, schools (both DOE and Charter), policy makers, farmers, processors, distributors, and the Hawaii Island School Garden Network, all important players in Hawaii's emerging Farm to School movement.

Hawaii County NPAC strongly recommends passage of HB1380 the following amendments which would make HB1380HD3 capitalize on existing resources, and have minimal financial impact on the DOE:

SECTION 1:

1. Farm to School Pilot Program: Farm-to-school program. Establish in the department of agriculture a farm-to-school coordinator. The coordinator will be responsible for implementing a pilot program, to be established in a minimum of three schools or school complexes for three years. The purpose of the pilot program is to increase procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables by selected public schools.

2. Exemption from Policy Constraints (ACT 175): School participating in the Farm-to-School pilot program will be exempt from Act 175, SLH 2009 which removed the exemption of fresh produce from Chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code, HRS.

3. Farm to School Pilot Program Study: A study measuring the impact of the farm-to-school pilot program will be conducted by departments such as CTAHR, DOH, and DOA with data provided by DOE.

4. Hawaii-grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP): Delete the proposed Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetable program from this bill, since the current USDA FFV program allows schools to purchase locally grown FFV already.

5. School Gardens: Firstly, school gardens are for educational purposes, not production purposes on the scale of the school lunch program. A common sense variation of food safety certification specific to teaching gardens, without the required record-keeping and fees, or DOA staff to oversee, would be sufficient to ensure food safety. Secondly, use of conventional farming methods in school gardens poses a health and safety risk to children. There should be no handling of hazardous materials such as pesticides, herbicide, or chemical fertilizers in a school garden and strictly organic, non-GMO methods should be used and taught to school children.

SECTION 2:

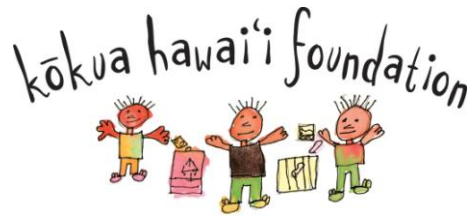
Farmer to Food Bank: Delete the proposed farmers to food banks pilot program, since there will be no funds from USDA or DHS to support it.

SECTION 5: Amend Section 4 to read: This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathie Pomeroy N.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kathie Pomeroy, N.D., NPAC Coordinator



**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011
1:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225**

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE

RE: HB 1380 – Relating to Hawai'i Grown Produce -Establishes the Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Establishes the Hawaii-grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and appropriates funds for the Program to increase school children's access to Hawaii produce. Establishes the Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program.

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee's:

My name is Kaliko Amona and I am the Director of the Kokua Hawaii 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 am also the Hawai'i State Lead for the National Farm to School Network.

I am writing to express our support of HB 1380 with comments.

We support the creation and funding of a Farm to School Coordinator position in the Department of Agriculture. It will help local farmers understand the institutional market, which will allow more local products to enter the institutional market distribution stream. Of the three programs proposed in this bill, the farm to school program in the HDOA will have the biggest return on investment, both in the potential economic stimulus for local agriculture as well as the health of Hawai'i's keiki. As a model for this effort, the state of Oregon has in fact made huge strides in increasing access to fresh local foods in schools and supporting local farms through increased access to institutional markets after the creation of a Farm to School and School Garden Coordinator position within their Departments of Agriculture and Education.

We support the INTENT of the Hawai'i-Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program and the Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program. All efforts to support local farmers and bring more fresh fruits and vegetables to Hawai'i's children and people in need are very important. **HOWEVER, given the current economic climate we prefer all attention, focus, and support to be directed at the first initiative only at this time, to create and fund a Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.**

Again, thank you for your time. We humbly ask you to support House Bill 1380 and farm to school in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kaliko Amona
'AINA In Schools Program Director

www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org P.O. Box 866
Hale'iwa, HI 96712 (808) 638-5145
info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org



HAWAI‘I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

Informing the Education Community

Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Education

March 18, 2011, 1:30 pm, Room 225

by
Donald B. Young, Director
Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center

HB 198 SD2: Relating to the Department of Education
HB 1380 HD3: Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

My name is Donald Young. I am providing testimony as Director of the Hawai‘i Educational Policy Center (HEPC) in support of the intent of these bills.

Farm-to-school and school-programs have the potential to address many of the challenges facing Hawaii in a uniquely holistic way.

Levels of childhood obesity and diabetes have been increasing steadily in recent years and are reaching alarming rates. Increased access to local, healthy and fresh foods and enhanced education on nutrition and agriculture can help promote healthy eating habits in children. This would lower their risk for these and other related types of health disorders. Research shows a clear link between improved child nutrition and improved learning as well.

Facilitating the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables by schools also helps to strengthen and diversify our local economy and create jobs, aided by a multiplier effect. According to the Farm to School Collective “for every dollar spent on local foods in schools, one to three dollars circulates in the local economy.” Furthermore, the vast majority of the food we consume here in Hawaii is transported to us from sources many thousands of miles away. Recent increases in the price of oil due to instability in some of the major oil producing countries of the world highlight our vulnerability. To the extent we can foster initiatives that support local agriculture, we can also improve our food security. Finally, many of those of us in the modern world, adults as well as children, have lost touch with a concrete sense of how we get our food, knowledge far more common to us generations ago. Arguably, one of the negative impacts of this has been a lessened sensitivity to the vital need for responsible ecological stewardship. This program has the potential to significantly enhance practical knowledge in this arena.



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Testimony Supporting the Intent of HB 1380, HD3, “Relating To Hawaii-Grown Produce”

The American Heart Association supports the intent of HB 1380, HD3, “Relating To Hawaii-Grown Produce.”

The United States is addressing an obesity epidemic of historical proportion. More than 72 million adults have become obese, greater than 20% above ideal weight, and another one third are overweight; with the concomitant rise in medically costly weight-related complications. Unfortunately, these numbers are spreading to our nation’s children where 32 percent are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and 11 percent are extremely obese. The American Heart Association supports a multi-faceted approach to address the nation’s obesity epidemic which includes creating policies that improve access and affordability of healthy foods to all people.

While the Centers for Disease Control has not yet established “best practices” to address the obesity issue, it is monitoring and assessing community efforts throughout the country. Including an assessment requirement in HB 1380, HD3 for the programs to be funded would provide data that would help to add to the development of “best practices” to address obesity issues and provide feedback to legislators as to whether their investment of taxpayer funds are having the intended results.

Respectfully submitted by,

Corilee Watters, MSc, RD, PhD, CNSC
Asst. Professor Nutrition
Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Science
American Heart Association Volunteer Spokesperson

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For information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web site at www.americanheart.org or e-mail us at hawaii@heart.org

Oahu:

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485
Phone: 808-538-7021
Fax: 808-538-3443

Maui County:

J. Walter Cameron Center
95 Mahalani Street, No. 13
Wailuku, HI 96793-2598
Phone: 808-224-7185
Fax: 808-224-7220

Hawaii:

400 Hualani Street, Ste. 15
Hilo, HI 96720-4333
Phone: 808-961-2825
Fax: 808-961-2827

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diseases and stroke.”***

March 17, 2011

Testimony for HB1380HD2

Relating to Hawai'i Grown Produce – Farm to School

Dear Members of the Education and Agriculture Committees,

I would like to offer my testimony both a member of the Hawai'i School Garden Network Hui and also as the Program Director for the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network, a program of The Kohala Center. Our Hawai'i Island program serves 50 school garden programs public/private/charter K-12 on the Island of Hawai'i and 5800 students.

The time has come to establish a Farm to School Program for the State of Hawai'i. This program would include both School Gardens and a Farm to School procurement program to be established both at the DOA and DOE. With a funded position, (Farm to School Program Manager) Staff will be responsible for the creation and implementation of this essential program that will both build a local agricultural economy and help our children and youth improve their health and academic achievement.

The following are essential amendments recommended to accompany this bill:

1. Farm-to-School Program. (a) There is established in the Department of Agriculture a Farm to School Program Manager. The Program Manager will be responsible for implementing a pilot program, to be established in a minimum of three schools or school complexes for three years. The purpose of the pilot program is to increase procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables by selected public schools.
2. A study measuring the impact of the Farm-to-School Pilot Program will be conducted by departments such as CTAHR, DOH, and DOA with data provided by DOE.
3. Schools participating in the Farm-to-School Pilot Program will be exempt from Act 175, SLH 2009 which removed the exemption of fresh produce from Chapter 103D, Hawaii Public Procurement Code, HRS.
4. Amend Section 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.
5. Delete the proposed Hawaii-Grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) from this bill, since the current USDA FFV program allows schools to purchase locally grown FFV already.
6. Delete the proposed Farmers to Food Banks Pilot Program, since

there will be no funds from USDA or DHS to support it.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments,

Nancy Redfeather
Program Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/about.html
nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
808-322-2801



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March 18, 2011

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

Committee on Agriculture
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Hearing:

March 18, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225

RE: HB 1380, HD3 – Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Testimony in Support

Chair's Tokuda and Nishihara, and members of the Committees of Education, and Agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1380, HD3 which establishes the farm-to-school program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. It also establishes the Hawaii-grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and appropriates funds for the Program to increase school children's access to Hawaii Produce.

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%.

Alarminglly, obese children and adolescents are more likely to become obese as adults. One study found that approximately 80% of children who were overweight at aged 10–15 years were obese adults at age 25 years. Another study found that 25% of obese adults were overweight as children. Clearly something has to be done. Accoding to the CDC in 2003, Hawaii’s childhood obesity rate was 13.3%. In 2007, it more than doubled to 28.5%.

In advancing the Society’s healthy eating agenda, we have been working collaboratively with the Nutrition and Physical Activities Coaliton. We understand that they are propsing additional amendments to this measure, which we support.

We would like to take this opporuntiy to point out to committee’s the research potential this program could provide we would encourage both the Department of Agriculature in partnership with the Department of Human Services to apply for a Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund and evaluate the farmers to food bank pilot program. Additional funding could also be obtained from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity initiative. Our hope would be that this external funding would lead to the establishment of “best practices” that could be replicated in other school districts in the nation.

In closing I would like to state that the American Cancer Society firmly believes that exposing our children to fresh fruits and vegetables in our schools is the first step in promoting healthy eating habits.

Thank you for the opporuntiy to provide testimony regarding this important public health issue.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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

H.B. 1380HD3 Relating to Hawaii Grown Produce

Chair Tokuda, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee;



Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farm and ranch families and organizations **support HB1380 HD3**, providing mechanisms to increase locally grown consumption in schools and certain populations in the State.

The pictures above are from an Ag in the Classroom event in which Farm Bureau was **ASKED BY STUDENTS** to demonstrate that locally grown salads could be provided within the rules of the current school lunch program. The salad served met the pricing criteria and were provided by a local vegetable processing company that used locally grown vegetables. The operation meets the food safety criteria required by DOE. **IT CAN BE DONE.** We appreciate DOE's support of the program in the prior hearing. We feel that program such as this is multidisciplinary and can provide the basis for other areas of education. We see this in our ongoing a Ag in the Classroom activities. We recently had almost 1000 2nd grade students participating this year. The field trip is the activity of choice among teachers and culminates at the Ag Fest 2011 on April 2 on Maui.

We agree that HDOA should certify gardens. It provides assurance that the food that students eat is safe and should be used as a learning tool to teach students how to grow and harvest food safely as well as basic post harvest handling techniques such as washing vegetables after harvest.

We respectfully request your support for this measure in passing the measure with the effective date at the passage of the Act. Education is not just book learning. It is life experiences that will grow students with healthy bodies and minds. We hope to work with the procurement office to make this happen. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

Friday, March 18, 2011
1:15 pm
Conference Room 224

House Bill No. 1380, H.D. 2
Relating to Hawaii Grown Produce

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Chair Gabbard, and members of the committees. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1380, Relating to Hawaii Grown Produce. My name is Zoey Malaluan, and I am a senior at Castle High School. I support the intent of this bill.

Improving the health of Hawaii's growing students by offering access to nutritious foods, while simultaneously opening up a new market for Hawaii's local farmers will develop a more conscious and supportive community for locally-produced food. The Farm-to-School program is an exceptional and integral way to raise awareness about nutritional needs and to encourage students to be careful about what they consume to guarantee good health maintenance in the long run. In high school, many students are more concerned about filling their stomachs in order to survive extra-curricular activities (student government, athletics, dance, band, etc.) rather than seeking a meal or snack that will fill them and be of fine nutritional quality. The Farm-to-School program will open our eyes to sincerely make a change to our diets.

I also support the incorporation of Hawaii-produced nutritious snacks to improve student health and to expand the market for Hawaii-grown fresh fruit and vegetables. This will expose students to healthier and fresher options right from the local market which will then yield an increase in food self-sufficiency especially with school gardens. School gardens would indeed increase fruit and vegetable consumption in school.

The nutritional quality of food in Hawaii schools must be raised to a quality of one with fresher and healthier foods. In order to be physically, emotionally, socially, and psychologically prepared for what is ahead, every growing and developing student needs to begin with the basis of it all: We need to consume healthy foods, healthy school snacks and meals.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

March 17, 2011

TESTIMONY

To: Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee

From: Joni Wong, Master of Social Work Student at UH Manoa

Subject: HB 1380, Related to Hawaii-Grown Produce

To be heard on 3/18/11 at 1:30pm in conference room 225

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables; establish the Hawaii-grown Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in the Department of Education in order to facilitate the consumption of locally-produced nutritious snacks to improve student health and expand the market for locally-grown produce; and to authorizing schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in schools and as part of the Program. In addition, the purpose of this bill is also to establish the Farmers to Food Bank Pilot Program to provide Hawaii-grown produce to low-income people through designated food banks.

I support this bill because it will provide Hawaii schools with more fresh fruits and vegetables for the students, instead of the processed, canned, and pre-prepared produce that are served for breakfast and lunch on many occasions. Student may then receive a great nutritional value by consuming the fresh fruits and vegetables grown within the State. Furthermore, the bill will support the local farmers and their businesses while educating students about organic and conventional growing methods through the School garden program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

House Bill Number HB1380
Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Chair Tokuda, Chair Gabbard and members of the committees. Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 1380 I support this bill for the following reasons...

This bill's purpose is not only to spread the availability of healthy snacks to students, but to economically better Hawaii's market for fresh fruits and vegetables. I feel that school food is not as healthy as it can be, it can be improved. I have experienced countless occasions where fellow students will go hungry during the day because they either don't like the food or feel it's too unhealthy. I believe many students will benefit from having healthy snacks grown in Hawaii at school. Now, this plan will not only dish out healthy foods to students, this program is designed to teach the students about agriculture and the environment by incorporating them into school curriculum. I have yet in my two years in high school to learn much about the environment much less agriculture, maybe its time. Now this program will be modeled after the already successful Federal Program, all schools already being funded by the Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program will not be eligible to receive grants under this bill's program, as to prevent overlapping and illegitimate use of funds. Lastly this bill also authorizes schools to grow their own produce for use in their cafeteria, as long as certified safe by the Department of Agriculture. I think this would be a great class for students wanting to learn more about agriculture and having a desire for hands-on experiences.

There for I am in support of house bill 1380, thank you all for hearing my testimony.

Peter Reidy

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 4:05 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: foodguy2009@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1380 on 3/18/2011 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/AGL 3/18/2011 1:30:00 PM HB1380

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dexter Kishida
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: foodguy2009@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2011

Comments: