

**Date:** 03/03/2011

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0198,HD1(hscr400) RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Education; School Meals Program

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes schools to purchase fresh local produce under the school meals program and to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program.

**Department's Position:** Section 1 of the bill authorizes schools to grow food in their gardens for consumption in their school meals program. While the Department of Education (DOE) supports school garden initiatives for curriculum, we need to point out that DOE will not be able to use produce harvested from school gardens in the National School Lunch Program unless the garden has food safety certification from the State Department of Agriculture. Students may consume produce grown on campus, but not in the school lunch program unless the garden has food safety certification.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes schools to purchase local produce. DOE has the ability to purchase local produce and believes this bill is not necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## FINTestimony

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 5:04 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jkfdang@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB198 on 3/3/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/3/2011 10:00:00 AM HB198

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Jennifer Dang  
Organization: NPAC-Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jkfdang@hawaii.edu](mailto:jkfdang@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/2/2011

**Comments:**

I support the intent of this bill. We believe that authorizing schools to grow food in school gardens that are food safety certified is an important step towards procuring and consuming more locally grown Fruits and Vegetables. We believe that funds to provide the certification can be found in Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, the agricultural development and food security special fund.