

Date: 02/24/2012

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2093,HD2 (hscr328-12) Relating to Agricultural Education

Purpose of Bill: Requires the University of Hawaii to establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership. Requires the University of Hawaii to establish a two-year pilot project at one high school campus in each county to determine the steps necessary for a school farm to be food safety certified by the Department of Agriculture.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2093, HD2 (hscr328-12), as long as its implementation does not impact or replace priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The Department will collaborate with the University of Hawaii at Hilo Center for Agricultural Leadership in the establishment of one high school pilot project in each county and interface with the Department of Agriculture to identify and generate remedies regarding potential barriers to school farm food safety certification. The process of food safety certification will be incorporated into any agriculture-related curriculum associated with the school farm.

The Department will also collaborate with the Center for Agricultural Leadership Director to maintain and support the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program to meet compliance with Public Law 105-225, federal vocational education legislation, and the FFA Constitution and By Laws.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Finance
February 24, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.
By Linda K. Johnsrud

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Hawai'i

HB 2093 HD2: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the foresight of the legislature in its support of agriculture and agricultural sustainability in Hawai'i, and commends the legislature's interest in strengthening the development of agricultural education in the state. HB 2093 HD2 proposes a center for agricultural leadership at the University of Hawai'i with school farm projects at one high school in each county that pilot the steps necessary for achieving food safety certification through the US Department of Agriculture. It supports working collaboratively with industry and agricultural organizations, providing opportunities for agricultural teachers, and encouraging leadership and career growth for students.

Because establishing a center and pilot projects involves educational programs and locations statewide, the University respectfully recommends that the agriculture programs within the UH system first have a chance to discuss and develop plans about how best to do this. Creating a center also has budget impact and requires thoughtful planning. We would like to discuss this carefully within UH to ensure that any action we take will lead to positive outcomes that support the intent of HB 2093 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 24, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2093, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Room 308
1:30 PM

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in opposition to HB 2093, HD2, which proposes to establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawaii at Hilo and establish a two year pilot project at one high school campus in each county to determine the steps necessary for a school farm to be food safety certified by the Department of Agriculture.

HFBF recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. While it will be nice to have school farms food safety certified, we question whether this is a good use of limited resources at this time. Our focus at this time is to assist our commercial farmers and ranchers to meet food safety certification.

School farms at high schools serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, business planning, entomology, and pathology are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Courses that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

HFBF suggests that instead of creating a pilot project at one high school campus in each county, we support established agriculture programs such as 4-H and FFA. These programs are recognized programs that have well established roots in Hawaii but are struggling due to lack of resources. Consideration of how this proposal can assist these established programs is warranted.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.



To: House Committee on Finance
Re: Hearings on February 24, 2012, 1:30 am, Rm #308
Subject: Testimony regarding HB2093 HD2

February 23, 2012

SUPPORT with Amendments

GREAT IDEA.... But leave UH out of it, and forget the Agriculture Leadership formation.

DELETE SECTION Three.

Keep it simple, tell UH and the Dept of Ag that they are REQUIRED to support each and every school become food safe certified without cost to the school.

We have Future Farmers of America in many schools, and hurting for funding and support. Many AG high school teachers tell be they have \$300 a year for a working budget. Many AG teachers are paying out of their own pockets. HFUU has contributed directly to schools in dire need.

Give each school that has a garden, garden program or a Future Farmers of America a stipend of \$1,000 to fund them researching GAPS....Good Agriculture Practices....or Organic Certification.....safest food in the world.

Give the SUPPORT directly to the providers of education to our children. Give \$1,000 to every 4H school organization. You would be shocked at the good this "micro financing" would produce.

You will spend a fraction of the proposed money for the formation of a "Center for Agriculture Leadership" if you would support the REAL leaders, the AG teachers and 4H councilors. Who else opposes this bill, Dept of Ag, UH,the players do not want to play. So give the money to the workers.....our AG and FFA staff.

Glenn Martinez
HFUU President

FYI:

Hawaii Farmer Union United is the largest agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii that represents the small family farmers at the exclusion of GMO and Mega Corporation mono- crop industrial farms. With small family farmers on every island Hawaii Farmers Union is the only Grassroots farm organization where the members have direct voice.

Any testimony given to the Legislature is vetted to the membership. Often the testimony is a blend of opinions voiced directly from membership. We also encourage all individual members to submit testimony directly, particularly where there voice is different then the majority, thus all farmer voices are heard, not just the loudest.



Friday, February 24, 2011
1:30 pm
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2093 – Relating to Hawaii-Grown Produce

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jenna Ishii, director of Grow Hawaii – a new farm to-school initiative of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). HAIS represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

HAIS supports House Bill 2093 and finds that the aspirations expressed in this measure are in many cases aligned with the goals of our own new farm-to-school initiative, Grow Hawaii.

As you know, many State Reports and recommendations have called for increasing food self-sufficiency, growing the next generation of farmers, increasing the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables for our youth, and generally rebuilding agricultural education across the educational system.

HB 2093 offers a successful pathway to begin to implement both the States and the Governor's goals for the "Renaissance of Agriculture." Establishing a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's CAFNRM, and providing funding for a Director, would create the possibility for greater innovative and collaborative efforts in this emerging program area to take root and sprout across the State.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

February 23, 2012
Testimony for HB 2093 HD2
In Support with Comments
Hearing 2/24/12 at 1:30 p.m.
House Finance Committee

Testimony Submitted by:
Emillia Noordhoek – Director
Molokai School Garden Network – Sust ‘aina ble Molokai

Good Afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

As you know, many State Reports and recommendations have called for increasing food self-sufficiency, growing the next generation of farmers, increasing the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables for our youth, and generally rebuilding agricultural education across the educational system.

HB 2093 offers a successful pathway to begin to implement both the States and the Governor’s goals for the “Renaissance of Agriculture.” Establishing a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawai’i at Hilo’s CAFNRM, and providing funding for a Director, would create the possibility for greater innovative and collaborative efforts in this emerging program area to take root and sprout across the State.

The Director position offers a unique opportunity for creative funding. A public/private partnership could and should be forged to give the first 2 years of this program the funding needed for the Director, and at least one other staff person. There are many private foundations in the State that would support this kind of position.

The Center could begin as soon as funding was available, and by Fall 2012, could initiate the High School Farm to School Pilot Program across the state. Engaging our young people and potential young farmers in real life meaningful projects such as this will help to revitalize both the “conversation” around agricultural education today K-16, and give support and meaning to the State’s call for increasing our ability to feed ourselves.

Ten years ago, FFA conventions in Honolulu drew up to 1,000 students. Today, the interest in agriculture and FFA has dwindled and is being championed currently by a handful of High School Programs across the state.

There is new interest however, in agricultural education across the State of Hawai’i. The Farm to School/School Garden Hui (www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/hui.html) represents 5 islands and more than 150

school garden programs engaging 1000s of students.

On Molokai alone, each of the 15 schools has some level of gardening program beginning and developed School Learning Gardens K-12, and Molokai High has active FFA Program In 2011 Sust 'aina ble Molokai had also been invited into the school to nurture and reinvigorate the once thriving agriculture program. Within this first year of programing for sustainable ag we did the following:

- Reached 100 high schools students a week in Production AG classes
- Created a terraced panting system engaging the community
- Have started nutrition classes teaching youth how to use what they grow
- Have started a food bank garden at the high school to help deliver nutritious , healthy options for those who need and want it .

Across the state, there is great interest to renew and rebuild agricultural education. This is the perfect time to begin as wide community support is already in place. Please support the creation of this agricultural pathway to a more vibrant future, and the eventual creation of a Hawai'i Farm to School Program that will greatly increase both the production and consumption of locally produced foods, thus increasing our local economy, building a more vibrant community food system, and increasing student health and academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Emillia Noordhoek, Director

Molokai School Garden Network - Sust 'aina ble Molokai

February 23, 2012
Testimony for HB 2093 HD2
In Support with Comments
Hearing 2/24/12 at 1:30 p.m.
House Finance Committee

Testimony Submitted by:
Nancy Redfeather – Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network – The Kohala Center

Good Afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

As you know, many State Reports and recommendations have called for increasing food self-sufficiency, growing the next generation of farmers, increasing the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables for our youth, and generally rebuilding agricultural education across the educational system.

HB 2093 offers a successful pathway to begin to implement both the States and the Governor's goals for the "Renaissance of Agriculture." Establishing a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's CAFNRM, and providing funding for a Director, would create the possibility for greater innovative and collaborative efforts in this emerging program area to take root and sprout across the State.

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Ten years ago, FFA conventions in Honolulu drew up to 1,000 students. Today, the interest in agriculture and FFA has dwindled and is being championed currently by a handful of High School Programs across the state.

There is new interest however, in agricultural education across the State of Hawai'i. The Farm to School/School Garden Hui (www.kohalacenter.org/HISGN/hui.html) represents 5 islands and more than 150

school garden programs engaging 1000s of students.

On Hawai'i Island alone, there are 63 beginning and developed School Learning Gardens K-12, and 3 active High School FFA Programs and last year:

- 3,500 students participated
- School Gardens were planted on 10 acres of land
- 7.5 tons of food was grown and consumed by the students or given away or sold to the community in school Student Farmers' Markets.

According to the upcoming Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the County of Hawai'i Agricultural Plan:

Health Impact Assessment Key Findings

Expansion of Farm-to-School programs would:

- Improve food security and improve the nutritional quality of food consumed by Hawaii Island children
- Create Hawaii Island jobs in agriculture and food processing, thereby strengthening the local economy

Increased production of fresh food for the local market would:

- Improve community food security and improve the nutritional quality of food consumed by Hawai'i Island residents
- Create jobs, increase farm output, and increase farm earnings in Hawai'i County and increase state tax revenues. Replacing purchase of only 10% of imported foods with locally produced food could amount to some \$313 million, or \$94 million at the farm-gate, assuming a 30% farm share. Taking into account the multiplier effects this \$94 million would generate an estimated economy-wide impact of \$188 million in sales, \$47 million in earnings, \$6 million in state tax revenues, and more than 2,300 jobs.

Across the state, there is great interest to renew and rebuild agricultural education. This is the perfect time to begin as wide community support is already in place. Please support the creation of this agricultural pathway to a more vibrant future, and the eventual creation of a Hawai'i Farm to School Program that will greatly increase both the production and consumption of locally produced foods, thus increasing our local economy, building a more vibrant community food system, and increasing student health and academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Redfeather

Director

Hawai'i island School Garden Network – The Kohala Center

February 24, 2012

To Chair Oshiro and the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Makana Agcaoili, and I was the 2011-2012 Hawai'i FFA State Secretary. I am writing this testimony in order to convey my support of the initial idea of House Bill 2093. I firmly believe that a director of agriculture position, who will act as the Hawai'i FFA State Advisor. Furthermore, a director who is housed within the UH system is a good idea for several reasons.

One major reason is that there would be a stronger link between the colleges and high schools. At the moment, there are few active collegiate members; there is also very little communication between the secondary and post secondary educational systems. Once a FFA member graduates from high school, their interest and life in FFA dies. A director would enable better communication and spread awareness of FFA throughout the DOE, colleges, and secondary programs. This enables FFA members, the future leaders of the agricultural industry, to continue growing their skills and knowledge into their college lives and hopefully into the alumni.

The second reason why a director in the UH system is beneficial is because this individual will have the ability to create partnerships with ease. There are numerous opportunities for FFA members, but there is so little awareness and communication of these opportunities that many members don't utilize them. Our members are unable to continue growing and utilizing their abilities because of the lack of programs awareness. A director would have the ability to create and inform the association about programs that will be able to challenge members and grow them into stronger leaders.

Finally, a director in the UH system would be able to create partnerships with industry members easier. A person in the post secondary field would work closer with industry members and future employers because it would be their sole job. There have been past advisors, who had several side jobs that were unable to successfully create partnerships because of prior duties. However, having this as a single job, the director would be able to focus and accomplish more than a group of side workers. By doing this, members would be able to sign up for internships or learn about possible jobs in many aspects of agriculture. Furthermore, members would be able to learn what skills they need if they wish to succeed, and this will lead to stronger leaders.

In conclusion, a director of the center for agricultural leadership would enable more FFA members to succeed in life and become ready to lead the new frontier of agriculture. The Hawaii FFA Association is one of the few states without a director, and this is causing a decline in membership and ability of members. I support the intent of creating a director, who will act as an advisor as well, in order to successfully prepare our younger generations for modern and future problems that will arise.

Sincerely,
Makana Agcaoili
2011-2012 Hawaii FFA State Secretary

February 24, 2012

Dear Chair Oshiro and members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing to support the intent of House Bill 2093. My name is Paula Rincon and I was the 2011-2012 Hawaii FFA State President. The Hawaii FFA Association is missing a key link to the National FFA Organization: a Hawaii FFA State Director. Hawaii is a part of a few states that do not have a state director. Hawaii FFA has been isolated because of the lack a system that coordinates agriculture leadership development opportunities for FFA members. Creating a Hawaii FFA State Director will fill the void of agriculture leadership in Hawaii. A director would make it easier for members to access all the leadership education opportunities FFA has to offer.

Every year since the director's position was collapsed, membership in Hawaii has decreased. Agriculture, especially, agriculture leadership is vital to Hawaii's goal to become food sustainable. Providing agriculture leadership education for the Hawaiian youth of today, will create Hawaii's much needed agriculture leaders of tomorrow.

I believe that creating a pilot system will not benefit The Hawaii FFA Association and may cause conflict. Focus and benefits should be equally shared amongst all members and all chapters. I also believe that attention should be concentrated on developing FFA leadership and membership before attempting the goal of food safety.

Creating a Hawaii FFA Director Position will more easily allow Hawaii FFA members fully develop their leadership skills. A director will be able to solely concentrate their attention on the development of agriculture leaders. These leaders are the future of Hawaii agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paula Rincon
2011-2012 Hawaii FFA State President

DENNA MACANAS
HB 2093
COMMENT ONLY

Date: February 24, 2012

House Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Oshiro and members of the committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the measure. My name is Denna Macanas and I currently wear many different "hats" in the agriculture industry there are two that I would like to share for the purpose of this bill. As a contracted employee of the Department of Education I am assigned to help coordinate the Hawaii FFA Association State Convention. Although working with the State Officers is not technically in my job description, their presence and involvement are an integral part of convention. The National FFA Organization officers training for the State Officer, which our team participated this summer, their leadership training was put to the test as they presented what their organization offers in front of a few legislatures at the end of their training. Months leading up to the state convention the team builds on their training as they prepare scripts, figure out workshops, and determine a message they want to address to their members through individual retiring addresses. As we collaborate, it is my duty to figure out logistics, attend coordinator meetings, find speakers or presenters, and work with school ag teachers to execute convention. The personal trials and tribulations are well worth it when I get the chance to over hear the excitement in members voices, seeing the smiles on the teachers faces, and above all getting at least a handful of people who can't wait till the next year's convention.

Another "hat" I wear is that I am the Hawaii FFA Foundation Board President. It's not a paid position but important nonetheless because of the intent of the Foundation. The foundation was created back in 2005 to try and help save the dying "breed" of ag education. The purpose has been simple, to support agriculture education. And as we move forward we hope to keep supporting this organization.

By establishing a Director for Agriculture Leadership and essentially shifting the Hawaii FFA Association to UHH CAFNRM, it helps draw the lines of school, state, and national that our national organization worked so hard to define. The added bonus of having it housed in the university would be to finally close the gaps of disconnect between the secondary and post secondary entities. It also helps foster partnerships with industry because there is one person accountable to delegate information.

I think back at my state officer terms and question why my advisors did not feel the need to have my teams reach out to help collaborate with industry. Maybe we would not have to be in this position. Maybe we would have more schools and students participating.

Now that I am in a position of advising, I push my teams to understand the broadness of agriculture and the amazing support this industry has for the FFA. I have been blessed with the opportunities to help the DOE with coordinating this event, working with bright and encouraging young adults, and build partnerships that hopefully help the students.

All of this is done on a contracted that starts as early as September and ends in March. I bounce from around to different temp jobs so that I may fuel my passion for agriculture education, FFA, and the product that is created from a student's direct passion for both... future leaders in agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Denna Macanas
2012 Hawaii FFA State Convention Coordinator
Hawaii FFA Foundation President

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tiana@farmtokeiki.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2093 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB2093

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tiana Kamen
Organization: Hawaii School Garden and Farm to Sc
E-mail: tiana@farmtokeiki.org
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I support this bill and would like to propose to amend the bill in SECTION 3. (a) to state the following: "The University of Hawaii shall establish a two-year pilot project within the center for agricultural leadership to determine the steps necessary for farms operated through school programs to achieve food safety certification by the department of agriculture. The pilot project shall be conducted at one high school in each county and one on Moloka'i island. In order to be chosen for this pilot project, a high school shall currently maintain a school farm that has a high likelihood of meeting current food safety certification requirements.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tiana Kamen
Farm to Keiki Director
Hawaii School Garden and Farm to School Hui - Kaua'i Representative