

Testifier: Tiana Kamen, Farm to Keiki Preschool Program, Founder and Director

Committee: Agriculture

January 27, 2012; 8:30 am

Bill 2093

Aloha committee members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak in **support of HB 2093**. My name is Tiana Kamen. I am a member of the Hawaii School Garden and Farm to School Hui, the former director of the Kaua'i School Garden Network and the present director of the Farm to Keiki Preschool Program.

I have had experience working with 90% of Kauai's schools Pre-K through twelve for the past two years. School gardens/farms are a fantastic learning tool for course curriculum as well as teaching our children to foster healthy habits. This is especially important in a climate where one out of every student born in the year 2000 or later is obese or overweight.

It is incredible to see students proudly cooking what they are growing, and at the same time, it is heartbreaking that under the current food safety regulations, they cannot eat what they grow. Students at Saint Catherine's school on Kaua'i were so excited to make fresh basil pesto from the basil they grew in their new school garden. The chef at the school helped them make it, but they were all devastated when they learned they could not eat it because it was not food safety certified.

It is imparitive that we pass this bill and begin to identify the barriers and solutions to making it safe and easy for students to grow, cook and eat their own food. Building students taste pallets to love local food is important not only to support our local agriculture economy, but to keep our population healthy.

Empowering high school students to figure out how food safety certification is an excellent and valuable challenge. It is difficult enough for farmers to get the current food safety certification, and almost impossible for schools.

**I would like to propose one amendment to the bill: that a school farm pilot project should be conducted at every complex and also including the island of Moloka'i.**

Mahalo,

Tiana Kamen  
Farm to Keiki Preschool Program Director  
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# LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Lehn Huff  
Maui School Garden Network Coordinator

DATE: January 27, 2012 at 8:30 am

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2093 AGRICULTURAL  
EDUCATION; PILOT PROJECT; APPROPRIATION**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify FOR this measure. I presently oversee the work of the Maui public high schools and collaborate with 10 other agencies to support these high schools. The University of Hawaii – Maui College has only two agriculture teachers, one horticulture teacher and one animal husbandry teacher. We need a high school agriculture curriculum as there is none presently. The curriculum should include the STEM related courses and follow the DOE standards. Food safety should be included in this package. This requires the personnel to do so, in other words agricultural leadership . By providing a center for agricultural leadership, you can help us move towards our goal of greater food independence and sustainability.**

**We have a high school farm operation that could be part of the two-year pilot program mentioned in this bill.**

**Please note that the language in this bill calls for ONE high school pilot program in each county but Maui County includes three islands. Please change the language of the bill to state each ISLAND for the high school pilot program, not each COUNTY so that Lanai and Molokai can better be served by this legislation.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

# LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for H.B. 2093 for the Ag Committee, Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

My name is Emillia Noordhoek and I am the Executive Director for SustAINable Molokai and the School Garden Coordinator for the Molokai network, I am the Molokai representative on the State Wide Garden Hui.

I gave testimony in support of HB 2093 as I see it as very important step to help Hawaii gain greater food security and the students of Hawaii to move forward in career and educational pathways within the sustainable agriculture industry. SustAINable Molokai has a presence in Molokai high School as we had been asked by the teachers and principal to help create and establish a sustainable AG program working with teachers and students. We now have 2 of 8 terraces in the 2-acre area working with 5 classes that comes out to about 100 students.

I can tell you from first hand experience this that this program is already on a path to success due to the overwhelming response from teachers, and the engagement from the majority of the students. We are seeing community members who are interested in farming and food production coming on site and asking if they can "sit in " on the classes.

A pilot program would expand and increase the educational opportunities by creating the food safety certification program giving an opportunity for further collaboration between working food producers and the students at the High School. We see very exciting possibilities for curriculum building in agriculture and school garden programs and in other areas a like nutrition, health, value added products etc....

The only change to the bill that I would request is in the language used "one in each county", we would suggest that it be "on each island" so that the Molokai farmers can participate and help grow the next generation of agriculture professionals.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to testify for this program and to the committee for helping to move programs that will help the school garden projects and create career and educational pathways for our students for the long term benefit of Hawaii.

Thank-you for you time and commitment.

Emillia Noordhoek