

HB2093 HD2

**Center for Agricultural
Education; UH Hilo
EDU/AGL, WAM**



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Monday, March 19, 2012
Room 225
1:15 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2093, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chairperson Tokuda, Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2093, House Draft 2. This bill proposes to:

(1) Establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawaii at Hilo that is responsible for developing the next generation of agricultural leaders and conducting activities, including pilot projects and demonstration projects to improve agricultural education in the State; and

(2) Establish within the Center for Agricultural Leadership a two-year pilot project at one high school campus in each county to determine the steps necessary for school farms to achieve food safety certification by the Department of Agriculture and provide fresh local produce to Hawaii's school cafeterias.

The Department supports the intent of the bill. The Department supports agricultural education and is partnering with the University of Hawaii (UH) to develop guidelines for good agricultural practices (GAP) for school gardens and farms. However, the Department does wish to point out that additional resources may be needed to fully implement the intent of the bill and we wish to defer to UH for further guidance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 03/19/2012

Committee: Senate Education/Senate Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2093,HD2 (hscr751-12) 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 (hscr751-12) that requires the University of Hawaii to establish a Center for Agriculture and to establish a two-year pilot at one high school campus in each county, 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 work with the Department of Agriculture to identify and generate remedies regarding potential barriers to school farm food safety certification and will include the process of food safety certification 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
Senate Committee on Education and
Senate Committee on Agriculture
March 19, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Hawai'i

HB 2093 HD2: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chairs Tokuda and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture:

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the foresight of the legislature in its support of agriculture and agricultural sustainability in Hawai'i, and the intent of HB2093 HD2 to strengthen the development of agricultural education in the state. HB 2093 HD2 proposes a center for agricultural leadership at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo college of agriculture, forestry, and natural resource management. The bill would establish 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.

Establishing a center and pilot projects has resource implications for the University that include a center director position as specified in HB2093 HD2, and may also include support staff, facilities and farm space, and the development of an agricultural leadership program and curriculum that can be delivered to students in locations statewide. Intentional planning is required to map out current availability of programs and resources, additional need, and how to effectively meet the intended goal of the bill.

The University respectfully recommends that the agriculture programs within the UH system first have a chance to assess, discuss, and develop plans about how best to meet the needs stated in HB2093 HD2. We would like to have an opportunity 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 comment on this measure.



Monday, March 19, 2012
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

RE: HB 2093 HD2 – Relating to Agriculture Education - Establishes a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management. 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.

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

My name is Jenna Ishii, and I am the Director of Grow Hawaii, a Farm to School Program of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). HAIS represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide. I am also a founding member of the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui as well as the O'ahu Farm to School Network.

HAIS supports the intent of 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.

House Bill 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.



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

March 19, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2093, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Room 225
1:15 PM

Chair Tokuda, Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

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.



MA`O COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

a non-profit `aina-based project of the Wai`anae Community Re-Development Corporation

P.O. Box 441, Wai`anae, Hawai'i 96792
Office Tel: 808-696-5569 Fax: 808-696-5568
info@maoorganicfarms.org
www.maoorganicfarms.org

Committee on Agriculture

Committee on Education

Hearing Date: Monday, March 19, 2012

Time: 1:15 pm

Place: Conference Room 225

Re: Support for 2093, HD2

March 12, 2012

Honorable Legislators:

Greetings from Wai`anae and the Kauhale Education & Entrepreneurship Initiative (Kauhale), a program of the Wai`anae Community Re-Development Corporation (WCRC), a grassroots, community-based organization whose mission is to develop the Wai`anae moku (region) through the empowerment of youth leadership. Started in 2001, WCRC was founded to address many of the social, economic and environmental issues that plagued the community over multiple generations leading to a downward spiral in which youth and their families were ultimately not being afforded equal educational and economic opportunity.

Under our flagship initiative, the MA`O Community Food Systems Initiative, the MA`O Youth Leadership Training (YLT) recruits high school graduates to serve a 2.5 year tenure in our programs in which the students directly contribute to their own success by working as co-producers of our organic agriculture social enterprises while attending college full-time. Today, the program is graduating cohorts of students from Leeward Community College with an Associate of Arts degree with many continuing on to 4-year programs at the University of Hawai'i at West O`ahu and Manoa. Our belief is that when culturally relevant and communally focused opportunities are given for youth to grow their capacity, we are able to produce stellar leaders who are rooted in their identity, rooted in their families and homes, and rooted in a community in which they can eventually come back and contribute to its overall well-being.

We are writing to express our support to establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo at Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management. As a community organization, we know the importance of creating connections between our educational institutions, both secondary and post-secondary, and the community in order to build long-term, resilient and sustainable solutions for greater food security. By enabling a Center, you create a communal resource that invests in our youth as the catalysts of the needed changes to move us from

import dependent to self-sufficient agricultural systems that naturally create renewable energy and waste reduction strategies as value adds to the system. In terms of education, this pilot can provide:

- Programmatic support especially in the recruitment of youth from around the island who are specifically interested in agriculture and related areas of Hawaiian Studies/Social Sciences, Agriculture/Botany, and Business/Entrepreneurship. MA'O currently serves 500+ students yearly, primarily native Hawaiian students, in three school-based entrepreneurship programs at Wai'anae Intermediate School, Wai'anae High School and Leeward Community College. The center has the potential to create a similar pathway for youth to enter and be successful in agricultural education fields. The UH Hilo institution will have a groundswell of youth in which to matriculate into AA and BA seeking programs in the field of agriculture, forestry and natural resource management.

- Collaborative support in building community-based academic and experiential, hands-on learning venues in agricultural education to enhance learning opportunities developed by the project. WCRC works with many of Hawai'i's premier innovators in the public and private sectors who are willing to help to build collaborative activities that not only develops the project but will also give project participants a real world experience of these content areas and its applicability in the community. The Center will create a similar impact in that there will be many opportunities to develop public and private partnerships that ultimately strengthen the agricultural industry and workforce.

- Communal support in the development of indigenous and culturally aligned venues and enterprises for learning that validate the identity, values and culture of our community, especially our youth of native Hawaiian ancestry. At MA`O, our educators become the experts that our community seeks for consultation. The outcomes are usually the development of more appropriate strategies and relevant approaches in meeting (and exceeding) stated project outcomes. Specifically, the Center will create a more sustainable experience by focusing on assets that already exist in the community, building increased capacity and competency for the agriculture community and the community at large.

Mahalo for allowing us to express our support of this worthwhile endeavor. We are happy to reply to any questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know by emailing, calling or writing to our contact numbers above.

Aloha, sincerely,

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth
Executive Director, WCRC

March 19, 2012
Testimony for HB 2093 HD2
HSCR751-12

In Support with Comments
Hearing 3/19/12 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225
Testimony Submitted by:
Nancy Redfeather – Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network – The Kohala Center
Member - Hawai'i Farm to School & School Garden Hui

Good Afternoon Chairs Tokuda and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Kahele, 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 one 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.

At a meeting at UHH with the FFA National Director Ernie Gill, UHH Interim CAFNRM Dean Bruce Mathews, David Fuertes, and High School Agriculture Teachers a few weeks ago, and after hearing the statistics of the decline of FFA especially over the past 10 years, (1500 to 150) Ernie recommended "professional

development” for our State’s agriculture teachers as a good beginning step toward building future farmers. The Center, could play a vital role “connecting” inspiring and knowledgeable agriculture professors in the UH system with High School Agriculture Teachers to create a more vibrant and vital program.

Ten years ago, FFA conventions in Honolulu drew up to 1,500 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. (8)

There is new interest however, in agricultural education across the State of Hawai’i. The Hawai’i 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:

- 3,800 students participated
- School Gardens were planted on 12 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

consider support for 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

Member: Hawai'i Farm to School & School Garden Hui

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
and Senate Committee on Agriculture
Monday, March 19, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.
by

Dr. Bruce Mathews
Acting Dean and Professor of Soil Science
College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management
University of Hawai`i at Hilo

Chairs Tokuda, Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani, Kahele and Members of the
Committees:

HB 2093 HD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

My name is Bruce Mathews and I am Acting Dean and Professor of Soil Science & Agronomy in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM) at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo. CAFNRM strongly supports HB 2093 HD2 to establish a Center for Agricultural Leadership within the College. HB 2093 HD2 will assist in the revitalization of high school agriculture education programs and their ability to address agro-environmental sustainability and food safety certification concerns. These outcomes should also lead to increased enrollment in the agricultural programs offered by the University of Hawai`i System, more successful farmers and teachers, improved cooperation among agricultural organizations, K-12 mentoring internship opportunities for college level agricultural students, and a new generation of innovative and responsible agricultural leaders.

Our primary concern is the lack of funding for any clerical support staff as this would make a huge difference in optimizing use of the center director's valuable time. The ability to provide timely guidance throughout the state is critical for full implementation of the goals set for HB 2093 HD2.

We appreciate the support of the legislature to strengthen agricultural education while facilitating progress toward enhanced food security for Hawai`i.

Testimony for EDU/AGL 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM HB2093

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ernie Gill
Organization:
E-mail: egill@ffa.org
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

My name is Ernie Gill and I strongly support the intent of this bill. I work for the National FFA Organization as the Western Regional Director. My responsibilities require me to work with the 13 western states to facilitate the delivery of agriculture education and FFA by working with state staff, teacher leaders and Universities in those states. Currently the National FFA Organization is at record highs for number of agriculture education programs and student membership in the National FFA. In Hawaii the number of programs and FFA membership are at all-time lows. Although there may be many more enrolled but a small percentage are in FFA. I applaud the development of the Agriculture Leadership Center. This would put a person in charge of maintaining current programs, developing and maintaining new programs allowing for growth and opportunities for more students. Every state in the nation has a State Director of Agriculture Education and in Hawaii this position has been absent for numerous years. Without this person information is not provided and followed up on with the advisors. Thus students are deprived of numerous opportunities provided by National FFA that create leadership, personal growth and career awareness for all students. Currently Hawaii students only participate sporadically in one of National FFA leadership development programs. There are many programs and most are offered at a minimal fee or cost sharing. This takes resources and this bill could provide the resources to allow those students to participate more actively. I see this as very important as these programs motivate students to become leaders and develop those soft skills that industry says they want. Without funding and someone to coordinate it participation is difficult. I would see funding being used for these activities in preference to the food safety certification. Once quality and growth are established food safety would be a very desirable goal to pursue. I know food sustainability is very high on your priorities but certain other things need to be in place for that to occur. I would highly encourage you all to fund this bill at a level that allows students the opportunity to participate in these leadership building programs that will ultimately have a greater impact food safety certification and food sustainability.

Thank you for allowing my testimony.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:08 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: pomeroy.kathie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2093 on 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/AGL 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM HB2093

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathie Pomeroy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pomeroy.kathie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:
Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2093. As a concerned parent, farm owner, and a member of the Hawaii County Mayor's Ag Advisory Commission, I see the necessity of dovetailing high school education in farming and food safety for the purpose of advancing the farm to school initiative in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Kathie Pomeroy

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:14 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2093 on 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/AGL 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM HB2093

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Glenn Martinez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments:

Amend: Drop the reference to FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION...there is no program in place. This is a red herring of the worse kind. The UH CHTAR folks will come out and coach them for FREE. No need to study the problem.

Glenn Martinez
President of HFUU

I am writing in support of HB2093.

My name is Manuel Jadulang, Agriculture Teacher at Honokaa HS. As a graduate of the DOE system and a FFA and Ag student, I've benefited a lot. Now as a teacher of 11 years, I've seen the many changes that is occurring in the ag field from education (DOE), policy making and industry.

I hope that if funding is granted that this position will enable someone to coordinate work among education (DOE/UH), policy making and industry. It is very crucial in this time that that we have all areas of communication open to all.

From my teacher point, I've seen so many changes in the DOE especially from the CTE office that there is lack of communication to us High School teachers on curriculum development and the incorporation of FFA. Some of the things that is coming our way, we have not being told of nor ask for teacher buy in.

It is my hope that this coordinator can facilitate better communication between us teachers and DOE and also ask for industry input.