



**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](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

JANUARY 26, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2245  
RELATING TO HAWAII-GROWN PRODUCE

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Mae Nakahata, Government Affairs Co-chair 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 supports the intent and submits the following comments and suggested amendments to HB 2245 which establishes a farm to school program to increase procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

HFBF strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. We however do not believe that a focus on providing vegetables from school gardens should be a priority.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture has also done some work in this area within the past year. We believe many of the needs of implementing this program as well as the shortfalls been identified. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying to a school or schools within a geographic area will be feasible while providing to the entire school system is unreasonable. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make it a reasonable process to the size of farmers and ranchers

we have in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to travel through the system should be a priority.

HFBF will support a program that partners with the Department of Education Procurement Office to develop programs that work in Hawaii and training sessions for farmers and ranchers to enter the system. Our farmers and ranchers may not be ready now but can be if they understand the opportunity and identify crops and other products that can be grown and produced at the required prices.

Students want fresh salads and other local options. The demand exists. HFBF respectfully requests funding be provided to Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to amend their procurement process to work for local farmers and ranchers and provide training classes to enter into the system.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this important issue. If there are questions, please contact Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison at (808) 848-2074.



Poamoho Organic Produce  
PO Box 728  
Waialua HI 96791  
808-637-4555  
[info@poamoho-organic.com](mailto:info@poamoho-organic.com)

January 26, 2012

To: House Committee on Agriculture  
Re: Hearings on January 27, 2012, 8:30 am, Rm #312  
Subject: Testimony regarding HB2093, HB2245 and HB1945

Aloha Committee Chair 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 testimony on the subject Bills.

HB2093: I can not support Section 3 of HB2093 that calls for a UH pilot program to subject school gardens to food safety certification by the Department of Agriculture. Although there is significant uncertainty as to what effect the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will have on our food systems, it is absolutely clear that: 1) the FSMA will be implemented through our Department of Health (DoH), not DoA; 2) that the existing food safety program administered by DoA and taught by UH CTAHR cannot be trusted as it has diverges greatly from the broadly accepted good agricultural practices (GAPs); and 3) that a working group that convened this summer of farmers from across the State, the farm bureau and representatives from DoH and DoA all agreed that the existing system did not meet the needs of either farmer or consumers. Therefore, please delete Section 3 from the text.

HB2245: this appears to be an excellent bill to institutionalize the connection between farms and schools. In order to ensure that this connection includes the majority of Hawaii's farms – its small farmers, I highly recommend that the task force also include a representative from the Hawaii Farmers Union United.

HB1945: as a farmer I appreciate the intent of this bill to reduce the costs of utilities for active farming enterprises. I noted in the draft that the words related to "water" were deleted in favor of "public utility services" and am concerned that these words may only refer to publicly owned, government controlled resources and will not apply to privately held water companies or even "irrigation water". I suggest the words be changed to include all utility companies providing services to any farm operation on Ag lands.

Mahalo,

Al Santoro

hashem1 - Julie

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** gypsieme@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2245 on 1/27/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 1/27/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2245

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: teri nguyen  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [gypsieme@hotmail.com](mailto:gypsieme@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

**Comments:**

Farm-to-School food Programs should be encouraged. Young people need fresh, wholesome food for growing bodies and minds. However, the government should stay out of it and not impose regulations that are counterproductive.