



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
January 27, 2011
8:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2245
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2245. The Department of Agriculture is appreciative of the intent of this measure that seeks to increase procurement of locally-grown fruits and vegetables by public schools, however we do not believe it is necessary. In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011 Session), the Department has been collaborating with public and private stakeholders to report on guidelines and recommendations for action that would accomplish the outcomes intended in HB 2245. Additionally, a University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources report in 2009 in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009 Session) was focused on this topic as well, leading us to believe that a task force could be repetitive.

The working group assembled by the Department of Agriculture in response to HCR 167, identified solutions to removing or reducing the substantial barriers and impediments that prevent the use of local produce by the Department of Education; the need to inform farmers of the opportunities, conditions, and standards to supply produce to Hawaii's correctional system, healthcare institutions, and the University of Hawaii; the opportunity to enhance existing partnerships that integrate agriculture into school



curricula such as school gardens and agricultural education; and the identification of the best means to implement the preference for purchasing locally grown agricultural products.

Positive outcomes from the working group are featured in the proposed legislation that have been introduced as part of the administrative package. The Department has introduced HB 2432 that directly deals with the issue of the purchase of local produce by amending the procurement code to allow governmental institutions to more easily purchase local agricultural commodities. The Department has also introduced HB 2431 that would create a policy statement within the Hawaii State Planning Act to support the purchase of local agricultural commodities. Hand in hand, these bills would begin the steps of increasing the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables by governmental institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HB 2245
Thursday January 26, 2012
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network-The Kohala Center
Program Director Nancy Redfeather

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

Establishing a Farm to School Program in the State of Hawai'i is a good step forward, however I think the program needs to be expanded to:

Farm to School and School Garden Project Manager: This position would be in the Department of Agriculture and in the Department of Education. These two positions can work together to envision, identify, plan, and coordinate the building of these programs across the state.

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is already in place through the Farm Bill, perhaps this bill is seeking to expand the program to more schools. Last year, funding for the program was actually given back to the federal government. So I'm not sure this is necessary at this point, unless it is for another purpose like an afterschool snack program.

I think there are also other bills calling for a Task Force to study the expansion of the School Garden Programs statewide. Probably only one is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Nancy Redfeather
Program Director
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

Kathy Kato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 7:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
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Testimony for AGR 1/27/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2245

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bryon Sparks
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brysparks@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

This is a great idea for the health and well being of all our children. My five year old grandson, Evan, would never touch a vegetable much less eat one. When he came to stay with Papa (me), he helped with gardening, pulling weeds and planting seeds. To my delight, he was soon eating carrots right from the garden. Kids need to learn where their food comes from. It makes a huge difference in their attitude toward healthy food.