

April 10, 2012
Ways and Means Committee
SCR33 SD1
Alice Hodge
alice.hodge@ewamakai.net 808-687-9513
Testimony in Support

Honorable Senator David Ige, Madame Vice Chair Honorable
Senator Michele Kidani and Honorable Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Alice Hodge, a 7th grade member of the
Ewa Makai leadership team. I am in support of SCR33 SD1 and I
appreciate that you are holding a hearing for this resolution.

I strongly support the "Green Bill" Resolution. This resolution is
designed so that the public school system as well as Charter Schools
incorporate at least five green initiatives into their current programs,
beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

Simple Green acts such as recycling, or growing an organic
garden can make a big difference, because they lead up to larger
acts such as Vermi-composting (worm composting), and aquaponics
(sustainable aquaculture of both fish and plants). When students
engage actively in Green Initiatives, they become creative problem
solvers and build stronger bonds between themselves and staff. This
benefits students and staff because Green Initiatives also save utility
costs for schools. For example the school does not have to purchase
fertilizer, because we use pesticide-free vermicast for our gardens.
We also use the funds received from recycling to sustain our Green
Initiatives.

The implementation of Green Initiatives has personally helped
me grow by genuinely changing my life. Now, green acts are no
longer a chore or a burden, they are a part of my everyday life. Ewa
Makai's Green Initiatives have inspired me to make a difference in my
everyday life, and every student in Hawaii deserves to feel the same
way.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you see
how beneficial Green initiatives are, and pass this resolution.

From: [Angelica Rodriguez](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:48:57 AM

Mr. Chair Honorable Senator David Ige, Madame Vice Chair Honorable Senator Michele Kidani and Honorable Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Angelica Rodriguez, a 7th grade member of the Ewa Makai leadership team. I am in support of SCR33 SD1 and I appreciate that you are holding a hearing for this resolution.

I am in full support of SCR33 SD1, which I believe is necessary to implement in our society and community. I feel it is not only to better our environmental status, but to teach students the importance of environmental stewardship, by conducting hands on activities.

Ewa Makai Middle School is a Green Ribbon School with Gold LEED Certification with exemplary role model student and staff members whose commitment to sustainability has impacted the culture of our school and community. After attending this school, I acquired multiple ways to be greener, care for the earth, and learn environmental responsibility because it was integrated in our curriculum and become a part of our school culture. Although I have only attended the school for three quarters, I feel I have grown as individual. I think that recycling is something very beneficial that has changed the way I live my life, in and outside of school. I have already taught my grandparents and mother the appropriate way to sort their recyclables, NCCC (newspaper, corrugated cardboard and computer paper).

Furthermore, instead of printing "Rough drafts" on paper, I send my assignments to my teachers through e-mail and attachments, saving trees.

Another way I have altered my daily decisions that I realized affect our environment, was through how I spend my money. In the past I would spend about \$3.00 daily on bottle water, however now I have recently kicked this bad habit. I now bring a reusable cup to school, and refill it with the water fountain. That means less energy will be consumed to export and recycle my plastic bottles just with a simple personal decision.

If we can incorporate at least five green initiatives in all public schools statewide, perhaps more students can make daily changes in the way they live their life just like I did and ultimately we can change the world.

I appreciate your time and consideration toward the SCR33 SD1, Green Hawaii program. Hopefully you as well can make the right decision that will lead to a big difference in our future.

Respectfully Thank you,
Angelica Rodriguez
Ewa Makai Middle School
7th grade Representative

Date: 04/11/2012

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SCR 033,SD1(sscr3043) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INSTITUTE A GREEN HAWAII PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Purpose of Bill: Requests the Department of Education and Board of Education to institute a green Hawaii program within the public school system.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports, with modification, SCR 033,SD1 (sscr3043) that requires the Department to institute a "Green Hawaii" program within the public school system. Many of our schools are already implementing "Green" projects such as recycling plastic and aluminum cans, gardening, and engaging in other environmentally-friendly activities. Current Board Policy 6710, "Sustainability," directs that students become environmental stewards who will make sound decisions, behave responsibly, act constructively to maintain and improve the environment that supports and sustains all life on the Hawaiian Islands and the world.

We believe it is unnecessary, however, to require that all public and charter schools perform at least five "Green Hawaii" projects each school year as stated in this Resolution. The number of "Green" projects performed should be determined by the duration, magnitude, and complexity of the environmental experience and be appropriate to the educational curriculum and instruction for that school and grade level. A single project spread over a semester may benefit the environment more and have the appropriate educational content as several, smaller projects.

We request that the phrase "under which all public schools, including charter schools, are requested to perform at least five 'Green Hawaii' projects within each school year" be deleted from this Resolution.

From: [Kathyrine Cabalar](#)
To: [Sen. David Ige](#); [Sen. Michelle Kidani](#); [Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland](#); [Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz](#); [Sen. J. Kalani English](#); [Sen. Carol Fukunaga](#); [Sen. Gilbert Kahele](#); [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#); [Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi](#); [Sen. Jill Tokuda](#); [Sen. Glenn Wakai](#); [Sen. Sam Slom](#); [Sen. Will Espero](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SCR33 SD1 Testimony
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 12:06:20 PM

Mr. Chair Honorable Senator David Ige, Madame Vice Chair Honorable Senator Michele Kidani, and the honorable WAMS committee members,

Aloha, my name is Kathyrine Cabalar, an 8th grade Leadership representative from Ewa Makai Middle. I am in support of SCR33 SD1, the "Green Bill" Resolution, a resolution that states that by the school year of 2015-2016, all public and charter schools are required to construct and take part of in at least five green initiatives per school year, and I appreciate that you've agreed to hold a hearing for this resolution.

This resolution would benefit the schools, staff, and most essentially, the students. Students would learn the importance of going green, and how they could apply this knowledge to help their own community and keep it in its best condition.

Personally, attending Ewa Makai Middle School and engaging in the green initiatives has offered a lot to me. I've attained more knowledge and awareness of the 3 R's; reduce, reuse, and recycle. I learned various ways of recycling, what components go in which colored bin, and am now able to apply it at home and teach my family with our own recycling bins. I've also learned to reuse items, such as un-recyclable objects, as to reduce the amount of waste that gets put into the trash. I was also able to put the knowledge I've gained from our school's vermicomposting bins into my own science fair project.

The students of Ewa Makai have also learned more about recycling and using less. While participating in these green initiatives, they were also able to follow the General Learner Outcomes, such as being a Self-Directed Learner, Community Contributor, and Effective Communicator and can implement these skills in their future. They've learned to problem solve and work more efficiently with each other too.

Practicing green initiatives in schools benefit the students in a way that would help them become productive and successful citizens in our future society. It would raise awareness throughout the very people who will be leading our future. Knowing this, the students will become better problem solvers and more capable of saving our environment.

Thank you for taking this resolution into consideration.

Mahalo For Your Kokua,
Kathyrine Cabalar
Ewa Makai Middle School
8th Grade Leadership Representative

SCR 33 SD1 Resolution Testimony
March 16, 2012, Room 225, 1:15pm
Senate & House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR33 SD1
Kaylee Baduria
Kaylee.baduria@ewamakai.net / (808) 687- 9513
Testimony in support

Good Afternoon Madam Chairperson, Mister Chairperson and Committee Members. My name is Kaylee Baduria and I am a seventh grader at Ewa Makai Middle School but I am here on behalf of myself. I am strongly in support of the SCR 33 Resolution. This resolution is targeting the public school system as well as Charter Schools to implement at least five green initiatives into their current program. Taking care of the state of Hawaii is very important because combining the help of students and these green initiatives is a good way to educate our students and sustain Hawaii's natural resources.

By implementing these green initiatives at my school, our students, teachers, and staff have learned a lot. Currently at Ewa Makai Middle School, we are implementing this resolution by growing an organic garden, maintaining an Aquaponics system (Cultivation of plants and aquatic animals in a re-circulating environment), Vermi-composting (Worm Composting), Protopods (composting with Soldier Fly larvae), storm water retention systems (collects rain water into the pervious concrete and recycles it for the sprinklers to water plants and grass), school wide recycling and other green projects.

Being green fosters resourcefulness and that is what we strive to be. We wrote grants to businesses and non-profit organizations such as, Kokua Hawaii Foundation, City and County of Honolulu, and GROW Hawaii.

The implementation of these green initiatives has personally impacted my life. I recently participated in the District Science Fair with my project focused on Vermi-composting. I had a lot of experience caring and nurturing the worm bins at school and could easily apply this knowledge towards my science experiment. I enjoyed my project because I knew that my vegetables I grew using the pesticide-free vermicast was organic and good enough for my family to eat. I earned an Honorable Mention Award in the District Science Fair and was pleased that I got an "A" in science while composting and helping the earth.

As I reflect on my personal growth through my contributions in our green initiatives at Ewa Makai Middle School, I have become more thoughtful and responsible for my actions. I realized that it's not the custodian's job to recycle or take care of the garden, it's our duty. The implementation of five green initiatives will be a very manageable project for all schools as well as beneficial and engaging. Our school has been open for just a little more than a year and we already implemented at least a dozen green initiatives, proof that it can be done. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify. I hope you will consider this resolution for the sake of our future.

From: [Preslyn Kaanaana](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SCR33 SD1
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:45:04 AM

SCR 33 SD1

Testimony in Support by: Preslyn Ka`ana`ana

Email: preslyn.kaanaana@ewamakai.net

Phone: (808) 687-9513

Dear Honorable Senator Ige and Honorable Committee Members,

Aloha! My name is Preslyn Ka`ana`ana and I attend Ewa Makai Middle School and am a member of the Leadership team, I am writing on behalf of myself. I am testifying in favor of the SCR33 SD1, the Green Hawaii Program. This resolution states that all public schools, including charter schools, are required to apply a minimal amount of five green initiatives to their school starting in the year of 2015- 2016. Although, Ewa Makai Middle School is just one of the public schools that participates in green initiatives throughout the school and campus, I've noticed that the green initiatives play a integral role on fostering environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The green initiatives here at Ewa Makai, include things such as vermicomposting (worm bins), aquaponics, organic gardening, composting with Soldier Fly larvae and school wide recycling. Non- profit organizations provided the school with the supplies and materials needed to do the green initiatives here on Ewa Makai's campus. Non- profit organizations include the Kokua Foundation, GROW Hawaii and The City and County of Honolulu. If SCR33 SD1, Green Hawaii Program, is approved, schools can also apply for support and grants to implement their green initiatives.

These activities encourage students, teachers and staff to practice these initiatives in school. With the knowledge gained while doing the projects in school, students adopt these practices outside of school, and make a difference in their own homes and community.

Students also learn relevant, life long lessons and values. As students are involved in these green initiatives, they learn how to communicate with one another to ensure the correct process while doing the green initiatives. Life science and General Learner Outcomes are practiced during the student's participation as well. Students collaborate and think together to solve problems that occur. These are values students will develop while doing the green

initiatives and at the same time, improve their character.

School wide recycling greatly impacted my own character. The activities I participate in here on the school campus influenced me to do some of the green practices at my own home. In my household, my family and I use green cleaning products, recycle bottles and cans, and limit the use of the dryer machine to reduce the use of electricity. By doing these practices at school and home, we all save energy, money and reduce the carbon footprint we leave behind.

By approving the Green Hawaii Program, SCR33 SD1, it will not only teach our students sustainability, but will also improve the character of students. We can develop a new generation of people who care about others, the world and take responsibility for their actions. We need to protect our limited resources and make the change today. Thank you for your time and opportunity to testify. Have yourself a greener day!

Respectfully with much appreciation,

Preslyn Ka`ana`ana

Ewa Makai Middle School

7th grade Leadership Representative

March 16, 2012, Room Number 225, 1:15 PM
Senate and House Education Concurrent Committee
SCR 33

Testimony in Support by: Rebekah Padua

Email: rebekahjessica.padua@ewamakai.net/Phone: (808) 687-9513

Support

Good Afternoon Madame Chair, Mister Chair, and Committee Members. My name is Rebekah Padua, and I attend Ewa Makai Middle School, but speaking on behalf of myself. I am here to support the Green Bill Resolution, which states that starting with the school year of 2015-2016, all public schools of Oahu, including public charter schools, are required to practice at least 5 Green Initiatives per school year. Although Ewa Makai Middle School is one of the very few public schools that engage in green projects, the monies for these projects does not have to come out of the school's budget. Grants can be written to non-profit foundations that may fund or supplement the Green Initiatives. There are already programs in place, of which I will name a few:

Kokua Hawaii Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports environmental activities in the state of Hawaii. They provide mini-grants for schools with a limitation of \$200 per classroom teacher and \$1,000 per school, per school year. Hawaii public schools practicing environmental Green Initiatives can request a mini-grant from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation, contacting them at grants@kokuahawaiifoundation.org.

The School Recycling Project Grant Program of the City and County of Honolulu provides financial assistance to support schools that intend to establish and implement a sustainable recycling project on campus with a limit of \$500 per school, per school year. The City Department of Environmental Services may also provide reservations for Hi-5 recycling bins to practice school-wide recycling. To enhance green practices and encourage students to continue them at home, teachers can also purchase additional educational materials.

Hawaii Nature Center, a recycling teaching partner, is an organization that provides environmental education to elementary students from the ages of 6 through 11.

Waikiki Worm, a recycling teaching partner, provides materials to sustain a healthy worm environment, which provides rich worm castings and vermicast for organic gardens.

The Green House, a sustainable learning center, provides programs, bringing standard-based and hands-on gardening education to elementary schools on Oahu. They provide workshops, as well as environmental Mini-Grants. Kokua Earth Action Projects (KEAP) assists Hawaii public school teachers to pay for supplies and training for environmental education services, providing \$200 per teacher and \$1,000 per school, per school year. Recycling Teaching Partners (RTP) Program, from the City and County of Honolulu, also provides grants of up to \$500 per school, per school year.

Grants and proposals can be written to support the funds for green projects in public schools. They can be written to any organization or non-profit foundation willing to provide equipment or money for the green practices. Contact information and grant forms can be found on their website. Therefore, it wouldn't be much of a problem having to find ways to "be green" at any public school, and will save the state money in the future. Thank you for the giving me the opportunity to testify and have a good day.