

SCR33

Green Hawaii Program

EDU, WAM

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 8:46 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Testimony for SCR33 on 3/16/2012 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/16/2012 1:25:00 PM SCR33

Conference room: Auditorium
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather
Organization: The Kohala Center-HISGN
E-mail: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

Creating future systems of sustainability for food, energy, waster, water, and economics is going to take a concerted effort, vision, and staff support for programs and curriculum. It begins with the creation of a overarching program that could outline a direction toward the future we all know, needs to be created, starting today with our youth. Let them become the leaders that will create the systems needed for future citizens of Hawai'i.

Resolution Number 33

Title: Education; Green Hawaii Projects

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Selena Li Fung and I am a sophomore at Moanalua High School. I am testifying on SCR No. 33, Green Hawaii Projects for the following reasons.

The Green Hawaii Projects offers a great opportunity for the youth giving them a sense of responsibility for those around them and the good of the community overall. Many kids on the island don't value recycling or even the disposal of their waste in proper waste bins. They feel that it's not their task to dispose of the trash on the island. However, if we have the Green Hawaii Projects, kids would become more cautious about recycling and the proper way of disposing their waste. They will learn to care about the land. And by having a sense of responsibility that the children learn from this project, it'll help the community overall to be cleaner and safer as some kids can get hurt by the litter around the playgrounds. As a whole, the project itself can have a long term impact.

In addition, the Green Hawaii Projects is beneficial as it provides an education for children and youth about producing food and the agricultural industry as well as respect for agricultural endeavors. Children and youth will take food more seriously as they learn about growing their own food. It also offers them a greater outlook of careers in agriculture. If they take an interest in producing food or careers relative to it, they may have an easier time discovering what work they hope to do in the future. The Green Hawaii Projects is the chance for children and youth to become aware of the foods they waste as well. Around 30-40% of food produced is wasted. Nevertheless, these projects provide kids the knowledge to treasure agricultural produces.

Finally, such a project as the Green Hawaii Project is also helpful as it raises funds for other student projects. Rather than having schools struggle with their money budget on student activities, the Green Hawaii Project benefits school funding. Additionally, the project teaches students about budgeting. It's best for children and youth to learn such matters at a young age. Then as they grow older, what they learn becomes a habit. Overall the Green Hawaii Project is beneficial in a number of ways. Thank you for your time and consideration. Aloha.

S.C.R. NO. 33

Title: Green Hawaii Program

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Crystal Soliven and I am a senior at Hanalani Schools. I am testifying on SCR 33, Green Hawaii Program. I support this Bill for the following reasons. A Green Hawaii Program within the public school system will give students opportunities to learn more about the environment they live in. It gives them an opportunity to learn outside of a classroom setting, and giving more opportunities to have hands on learning experiences. Also, A Green Hawaii Program will develop a better unity between the school and the community, because students are more aware of what is going on. A Green Hawaii Program within schools will help in school budgets, especially with the tough economic situations today; saving money in any way will be beneficial. Not only will the schools benefit from A Green Hawaii Program, but students will be exposed to different "green" methods, which they could use for their own personal application.

Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, March 16, at 1:15 P.M.

House Bill Number: No. SCR 33

Title: Green Hawaii Program

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Crystal Boucon and I am a freshman at American Renaissance Academy. I am testifying on SCR33, Green Hawaii Program. I agree with the idea about the Green project for these following reasons:

- By passing this Bill it will teach students important values such as responsibility, patience, friendship, malama (caring), and cooperation. By cooperating with a diverse group of people, you get to know them more. It also provides the opportunity for friendship while doing an activity that is helpful to the community. I am positive that the community will also appreciate this endeavor.
- The Green Hawaii Program is very eco-friendly and truly saves us a lot of money. However, we don't want to exhaust some ideas too deeply, either. For instance, we do not want to overdo grass and landscaping cuttings being used as mulch to cover lawns. We want the school property to look neat, not like a pile of haystacks. The idea is great, but we don't want to use too much of it. The idea of recycling plastic and aluminum containers to clean the school is another wonderful idea because the money can be used to buy extra school supplies and can cut down on school budget.
- Lastly, I especially love the idea of Organic Gardening. It teaches the youth that gardening is not only fun to do, but later they can reap the rewards of their effort by eating and sharing with family and friends the fruits and vegetables they have planted – foods that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, March 16, at 1:15 P.M.

House Bill Number: No. SCR 33

Title: Green Hawaii Program

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Derek Tanizaki and I am a sophomore at the American Renaissance Academy. I am testifying on SCR 33, Green Hawaii Program.

I strongly support this bill because people are not fully aware of how the planet is significantly getting more polluted every day. With this bill being passed, the youth will be educated in a way that is going to help put a stop to global pollution and it all starts right here in this very room. Pollution affects the environment, which means it affects us as human beings. Most people do not realize this, but around 25% of deaths in the developing world are attributed to environmental pollution. We can do something about the problems we are faced with or we can just let things run their course and hope that things will improve for the best. This is the reason why I am here before you today, to testify and demonstrate to you that there are students who are taking the initiative to act. There are only a handful of schools doing positive things to help with the environment, but with the bill being passed our state can become the forefront for environmental education. It is my sincerest hope that you, Senators will co-labor and partner with us on this noteworthy endeavor.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

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Thank you very much for your attention.

2012, March, 12

Department: Education

Testifier: Daniel Kim, Hawaii Public School Student

Bill: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INSTITUTE A GREEN HAWAII PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

My name is Daniel Kim, I am the Honolulu representative of the Hawaii State Student Council, today I will be testifying as an individual student from Kaiser High School.

This is a personal testimony, in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No.33

My first hand experience of how green projects can positively affect the youth, is when I would participate in reef clean ups, clean ups on the beach lines, and campus beautification I was able to build my character. I gained respect for my environment and for the people I worked along side with. Giving back to the community became a huge must do for me, Malama 'aina (Love and Respect for the Land) has also become a big role in my life by shaping me to be a student who contributes to their community.

Although it's been nearly a year since I had worked on a school service project it feels just like yesterday I was toiling for hours behind C building of my school to dig up an irrigation system for our garden. It was during this service project I realized how hard farmers have to work to feed the rest of the human population. We are living on a planet where basic values have deteriorated and an island of trash the size of Texas is floating in the middle of the ocean. That is why: to build character, to build a sense of respect for those who work the land, and to prevent a catastrophe we must institute a Green Hawaii Program within the public school system.

March 16, 2012, Room 225, 1:15pm
Senate and House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR 33
Daylin Kuboyama
daylin.kuboyama@ewamakai.net/ (808) 687-9513
Testimony in Support

Madam Chair, Mr. Chair and Committee Members, my name is Daylin Kuboyama. I am an eighth grader attending Ewa Makai Middle School. I am speaking on behalf of myself.

A question to the public may be; how do we have time to incorporate green initiatives to our **curriculum** when teachers and students are over whelmed with race to the top initiatives as well as meeting annual yearly progress?

My response to this question is neglecting to teach sustainability and environmental Stewardship is not an option. It is an urgency. Students need more opportunities to learn with hands on activities with real world applications. Our society needs innovators with great confidence who believe that they can individually make a change. If at least 5 families, approximately 20 people from each homeroom and approximately 40 homerooms total, adopt the 3R's reduce, reuse and recycle that's 800 people placing less garbage into our island's landfills.

The integration of green initiatives within instruction will strengthen students' General Learner Outcomes, (required by all schools by the Hawaii DOE). It helps students become stronger community contributors, complex thinkers, self-directed learners, and effective and ethical users of technology. Doing these green initiatives does not take away from students' standards based instruction, but instead gives them the motivation to continue to strive for excellence and most of all, change.

For example, one of the programs that I feel integrates sustainability is our Aquaponics System. We incorporate this green initiative into our standards based instruction. As a result I have a better understanding of the topics of Earth science benchmarks, Benchmark SC.8.2.1 , Describe significant relationships among society, science, and technology and how one impacts the other. A direct example is I understand the Earth's System and Cycles better because of the incorporation of Aquaponics into our science curriculum. Aquaponics is an integrated aquaculture (grows fish) and hydroponic (grows soilless plants) system that mutually benefits both environments, it is a re-circulating system.

Today's youth, tomorrows leaders, will benefit from these green initiatives, not only academically but also socially. Students form friendships and problem solve together as they adapt and make changes to the tanks or recycle together. Practicing green initiatives will make every individual a valuable asset in our changing society. Thank you for your time and consideration in this testimony. I hope this resolution is passed because it will make a difference.

Green Resolution Testimony
March 16, 2012, Room 225, 1:15pm
Senate and House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR 33
Jocelyn Bonilla
jocelynceleste.bonilla@ewamakai.net / (808) 687-9513
Testimony in Support

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Committee Members. My name is Jocelyn Bonilla and I am a seventh grader at Ewa Makai Middle School. However, I am speaking on behalf of myself.

I strongly agree with the resolution, which requires all public schools including public charter schools to perform at least five “Green Hawaii” projects within each school year. Implementing green initiatives in schools not only provides knowledge for students and families but also reduces the amount of trash in our landfills.

At Ewa Makai, there are two eight-gallon bins donated from the Kokua Foundation in each room on our campus. One bin collects cans and bottles, while the second bin collects newspaper, computer paper, and corrugated cardboard (NCCC). Roughly, we collect 40 cans and bottles and about 2.5-3 pounds of newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and computer paper per classroom. We have an estimated amount of 100 bins located on our campus.

With the help of our recycling bins located in the school, we compile approximately 2,200 cans and bottles and 100-125 (NCCC) newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and computer paper a day, when our school wide and community recycling bins are picked up. According to environmental specialist, Mr. Adam Bien. Schools collecting beverage containers valued at five cents each (filled up to the bottom of the bin window), will receive an estimated \$800 for a full HI-5 bin according to the Department of Environmental Services in 2010. On average, Ewa Makai receives \$42.85 per pick up according to Ewa Makai’s financial report of 2011.

According to our cafeteria staff at Ewa Makai, we save approximately 144 gallons of veggies and fruits over a course of one year. These fruits and veggies are then used to feed our worms in our vermi composting (worm bins) and protopod systems (maggot bins). This helps to alleviate overfills in our landfills. According to the Department of Environmental Services, 15% of our trash can be recycled. By practicing these green initiatives, it will lessen the amount of trash and other recyclable wastes from entering our landfills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 16, 2012, Room 225, 1:15pm
Senate and House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR33
Justyn Golobic
justyn.golobic@ewamakai.net /(808) 687-9513
Testimony in Support

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Committee Members my name is Justyn Golobic and I am an eighth grader at Ewa Makai Middle School. I speak on behalf of myself.

I speak strongly in support of Resolution. This resolution is designed so that the Public School System incorporates at least five green initiatives starting in the school year 2015-2016. Hawaii is a small state, so taking care of it and building it to its fullest is important. Combining school with caring for the state is a good way to strengthen Hawaii.

Savings from Green Initiatives are great. This money from doing green projects all comes back to education because this money can be used to buy much needed school supplies for those in need.

For example, according to Ewa Makai's finances of 2011-2012, the profits from recycling in one year add to approximately \$750. Each month we earn about twenty to thirty dollars for returning our items collected to Oahu Waste Services Inc. We benefit from this because the money can go towards tools for learning such as textbooks.

Ewa Makai practices green office initiatives. We place one ColorQube printer in workrooms so that teachers do not get a separate printer for their own specific needs. This reduces 90% of printer waste, such as cartridges and unused ink that will normally end up in the landfills. We have six printers throughout the school. Although teachers would need to retrieve printed documents, this also reduces cost of ink. Color ink costs \$38 per cartridge and Black ink costs \$19 per cartridge and are both 100% recyclable. With the low amount of printers per grade level, we save more money because we do not need to buy printers. We also save money on envelopes because they are reused. At Ewa Makai we use 9080 less envelopes than most schools and save an estimated amount of \$363, according to Ewa Makai's financial report of 2011-2012.

If these green projects are put in action, more schools can save more money and use that for other things, such as computers and iPads so they can become paperless.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and willingness to hear a member of the student body's opinion on this resolution.

“Green” Resolution Testimony
March 16, 2012
Room 225, 1:15pm
Senate and House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR33
Kaylee Frankhouse
kaylee_mouse@yahoo.com / (808)-206-7836
Testimony in Support

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee members. I am Kaylee Frankhouse, a student at Ewa Makai Middle School. I am speaking on behalf of myself. As a student at Ewa Makai, I have learned a lot about being environmentally friendly, since we promote this at our school. Before I was a student here, I did not think twice about recycling. If a trash bin was closer than a recycling bin, then I threw my soda can in the trash, without giving it any more thought.

Personally, I have come a long way since attending Ewa Makai. I have become a more conscious environmental steward. Being at a school that has its students engaged in recycling and being environmentally friendly has turned it into a habit for me outside of school as well. Now, I find myself searching for a recycle bin when I finish a soda and pick up litter when I am outside of the house. I recycle our plastic items, aluminum cans, and paper at home and show my family how to recycle properly. Attending a school with strong green initiatives has helped me to develop a better understanding of the importance of recycling and saving the planet.

The students of Ewa Makai have also learned more about recycling and reducing. At school and at home I apply all the three R's, reduce, reuse, and recycle by reusing plastic containers to store food or art materials. In our school garden, we reuse plastic bottles and old tennis shoes as substitute pots for seedlings to grow. Doing this reduces the amount of waste that would be placed in the landfills. While practicing these green initiatives, I also followed the General Learner Outcomes as a Self-Directed Learner, Community Contributor, and Effective Communicator and plan to implement these skills.

Recycling helps our teams work together. Students who normally don't talk with each other are able foster friendships as they recycle. During this time, I not only learn how to recycle, but how to work together as we collect the paper and plastic recycle bins and distribute them into the correct pile in our large multi-material recycling bin outside. This practice engages both the students and teachers in recycling paper, bottles, and aluminum cans, while we interact and take care of our school.

Other than learning about recycling, I have been able to participate in aquaponics. Our eighth grade science teacher, Mr. Wong, has developed an aquaponics system just outside of his classroom. He teaches my class mates and I what aquaponics is and keeps us updated on its progress. Here, tilapia fish are raised and are used to help fertilize cherry tomatoes that now grow in abundance. So now, I learn the science concepts while being environmentally friendly and see how the Talapia and plants rely on each other and share a symbiotic relationship.

Schools that involve their students in green initiatives will not only help the environment, but

build awareness of the importance of being environmentally responsible. These students can further encourage others to be green and save our planet. Having schools practice at least five green initiatives could produce life-long learners and role models to future generations. Ewa Makai's green initiatives play a large role in our school, and even though I will be moving on to high school next year, I will continue to practice them in my life and encourage my friends and family to participate in being environmentally friendly as well. Thank you for your time.

March 16, 2012, Room 225, 1:15 pm
Senate and House Concurrent Education Committee
SCR 33 "Green Bill" Resolution
Mc Erl Dave Andres
mcerldave.andres@ewamakai.net/(808)-687-9513
Testimony in Support

Madam Chair and Committee Members, my name is Mc Erl Dave Andres. I am an 8th grader currently attend Ewa Makai Middle School. I am speaking on behalf of myself.

I am in support of this resolution because teaching students about recycling would help them become conscientious stewards who recycle and learn about the many benefits that the "Green Hawaii" project has to offer. The students will be more aware of their surroundings, realizing common problems faced by their community, such as littering on beaches and streets, and the use of harmful pesticides in schools and businesses. It would teach students about strengthening and fostering partnerships with businesses within their community.

While attending Ewa Makai Middle School, I've learned the significance of going green. It makes me proud to see the vegetables from our garden being used in our salad bar at school. The soil used in our school garden is organic and nutrient rich since it consists of grass clippings, compost, and vermicast. I am also proud that our organic garden does not rely on toxic fertilizers to flourish and bloom. We feed our worm cafeteria food wastes diverting trash in the landfill. They in turn help us produce fresh and healthy fruits and vegetables with their vermicast-a symbiotic relationship.

Recycling plastic and aluminum containers had not only taken out recyclable materials from the landfill, we also have earned about \$1000 through recycling HI-5 containers and recyclable paper and containers since we opened our campus in January 2011.

Another green initiative can be as simple as planting native plants on school campus such as 'A ali'i, Hapu'u Fern, The O'ahu white hibiscus, Nehe and Koa which only requires little maintenance and water reducing costs.

The green projects foster the 3 R's reduce, reuse, and recycle. We owe it to the children of Hawaii and our planet to educate them about sustainability. We need to create intelligent, environmental stewards who make responsible decisions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of resolution SCR33.

March 16, 2012, Room Number 225, 1:15 PM
Senate and House Education Concurrent Committee
SCR 33
Rebekah Padua
rebekahjessica.padua@ewamakai.net/(808) 687-9513
Testimony in 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 Resolution SCR 33. Although Ewa Makai Middle School is one of the public schools that engage in multiple green projects, the monies for these projects do not have to come out of the school's budget. Grants can be written and awarded by non-profit foundations that may fund or supplement the Green Initiatives. There are already programs in place, which includes:

The Kokua Hawaii Foundation, who is a non-profit organization that supports environmental activities in the state of Hawaii. They provide mini-grants for Hawaii public schools with a limit of \$200 per classroom teacher and \$1,000 per school, per school year. The money can be used to assist teachers in paying for supplies and training for environmental education services. Hawaii public schools practicing environmental Green Initiatives can request a mini-grant from the Kokua Hawaii Foundation by 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. You can also reserve multi-material and Hi-5 recycling bins from The City Department of Environmental Services 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 Company, a recycling teaching partner, provides materials, resources and training to vermi-compost, 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. 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 and sustain green projects in public schools. These recycling-teaching-partners can also educate and mentor teachers throughout the projects. Contact information and grant forms can be found on their website. Therefore, there would not be problematic funding ways to "be greener" at any public school. Recycling will also provide money to sustain these green projects, not to mention reducing our carbon footprint.

Thank you for the giving me the opportunity to testify, and I hope you take my testimony into consideration. Have a good day.

March 15th, 2012

To: Senators ESPERO, Baker, Gabbard, Kidani, Nishihara, Slom, Taniguchi, Tokuda
From: Neav McAlister

I am writing in support of SCR33 and Green Hawaii projects in the Department of Education. The importance of educating children in environmental awareness, sustainability, and preservation is valuable for the todays children and the generations to come. To teach respect and mindfulness for the land and environment will increase the positive forward thinking in protecting the valuable resources that make up the State of Hawaii, as well as protect the culture of Hawaii. Green projects can connect youth to their sense of place in Hawaii with a mindfulness to protect it. There have been numerous changes in Hawaii by several public and private sectors that affect all members and citizens that live and breathe in this environment. The forward thinking of green projects in the Hawaii public school system will perpetuate forward "Green thinking" of its citizens. I believe this would be a valuable assets to the Department of Educations curriculum.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR No. 33

Neav McAlister