

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014  
11:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1988 H.D. 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1988 HD1. This bill would establish a Hawaii farm to school program and farm to school coordinator position within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) that would improve access to nutritious foods in public educational institutions and develop the agricultural workforce for the benefit of local farmers and consumers by increasing the purchase of foods grown in Hawaii by state agencies, including schools. While the HDOA supports the intent of this measure, it should be clear that the Department of Education (DOE) and the State Procurement Office (SPO) need to have active roles in this program in order for it to be successful.

The HDOA would request that the DOE be included in this bill to insure they would play a role in successful execution of this program.

The HDOA believes in the potential of the school food network to greatly increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables that are procured within the state and has participated in a number of task forces and working groups surrounding this topic that reported to the legislature including: a report to the 2012 Legislature resulting from House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) and a report to the 2010 Legislature per Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009). Both of these reports highlighted the difficulties that a farm-to-school program would encounter. As a result of these discussions, the development of House Bill 769 was introduced last session to exempt the purchase of fresh meats and produce from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code. Similar language has been inserted into HB1991 HD1, and we feel passage of HB1991 HD1 would be the best way forward.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 11:00 am

by  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean for Research  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1988 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 1988 HD1, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

We are in support of the purpose of this program as stated in the revised HB 1988 HD1, which is to increase the use of locally-grown food in state agencies, and to fund a farm-to-school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture for this purpose. The farm-to-school coordinator should act as a liaison with other state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawai'i, to develop plans to increase the use of locally-grown foods within state agencies.

In previous testimony, we stated an objection to a second duty of the coordinator that was included in earlier deleted language of "coordinating agricultural education in schools throughout the state from preschool through high school and at the university level" on the basis that coordination of education at the university level is the responsibility of the University of Hawai'i, rather than the Department of Agriculture.

However, we wish to clarify that we would have no objection to the Farm to School Coordinator participating in collaborative interagency efforts to support agricultural education in Hawai'i.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express the conditional support of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for HB 1988, with our request that responsibility for coordinating agricultural education be removed from the bill.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 20, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1988, HD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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.

HFB supports the intent HB 1988, HD1 which seeks to establish the Hawaii Farm to School Program to improve access to nutritious foods in public schools.

HFB 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.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has also done some work in this area in the past. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible, but providing to the entire school system is not. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority.

HFB supports a program in DOA to develop systems that work in Hawaii and education for farmers and ranchers to access these markets. Many farmers and ranchers are ready to understand the opportunity and identify crops and other products that can be grown and produced or these markets. Students and parents want fresh local products. The demand exists.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

*Nourishing Hawai'i's Learning Communities since 2008*



## **Kaua'i**

Colleen Carroll  
*Nature Talks*

Keone Kealoha  
*Mālama Kaua'i*

Tiana Kamen  
*Farm to Keiki Pre-School Network*

## **O'ahu**

Hunter Hcaivilin  
*O'ahu Farm to School Network*

Betty Gearen  
*The Green House*

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
*ĀINA In Schools*  
*Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation*

Jayne Grzebik  
*University of Hawai'i*  
*Master Gardeners*

Kendra Ozaki  
*HAIS*  
*Grow Hawai'i*

Elysa Ermatinger  
*Hoa'āina O Makaha*

Terri Langley  
*MA'O Organic Farms*

Miki Tomita  
*University Laboratory School*  
*Hawai'i School Peace Gardens*

Jessica Higgins  
*Hō'oulu Āina*  
*Kōkua Kulibi Valley*

## **Moloka'i**

Emilia Nordhook  
Fred Richardson  
*Moloka'i School Garden Network*  
*Sustainable Moloka'i*

## **Maui & Lāna'i**

Lehn Huff  
Rebekah Kuby  
*Maui School Garden Network*

## **Hawai'i Island**

Nancy Redfeather  
*Hawai'i Island School*  
*Garden Network*  
*The Kohala Center*

Amelia Pedini  
*FoodCorps Hawai'i*

## **State of Hawai'i**

Dexter Kishida  
*Department of Education*

Jennifer Ryan  
*Department of Health*  
*Healthy Hawai'i Initiative*

Testimony: HB1988 – Support for  
Relating to Support for Agricultural Education and Institutional Procurement  
Nancy Redfeather  
Director - Hawai'i Island School Garden Network  
The Kohala Center  
Member - Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH)  
Hawai'i School Garden Task Force – HDOH  
State Site Supervisor – FoodCorps Hawai'i  
Hearing: Thursday February 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the  
Committee,

The Kohala Center and the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network strongly support a  
Farm to School Program Coordinator position in the Department of Agriculture. The  
USDA defines “Farm to School” as a state program that brings more locally sourced  
foods into institutional purchasing and the accompanying school garden programs that  
are an integration of food-related education into the regular, standards-based  
classroom curriculum. Both programs when instituted and integrated have the  
potential to significantly raise student health and achievement metrics.

“This position will begin interagency strategic planning, coordination and support for  
agricultural education in Hawai'i and create recommendations for increased  
institutional procurement of locally grown foods. This Bill establishes a Hawai'i Farm  
to School Program in the Department of Agriculture. By doing this, we join 46 other  
states who are moving in this direction.

Key Findings in the DOE/HFSSGH's 2012 “Growing Learning Gardens” a Baseline  
Survey Summary of 413 schools statewide indicated that 43% had a school garden  
used for instructional purposes, 21,577 students participated in those programs with  
830 teachers growing food on 30 acres of land. The eight schools that weighed their  
produce grew 4.5 tons of food that was consumed by the children and their families.  
These programs currently lack the level of support needed for future success.

In 2012, Hawai'i spent 470 million dollars on obesity related health care. The Robert  
Wood Johnson Foundation states, “For every dollar spent on health care in the US  
today, only about 4 cents goes towards prevention.” Investments in prevention  
programs should increase student ability to learn, and decrease absenteeism.” The  
CDC warns that unless there is proper intervention, 1 in 3 children will be diabetic as  
adults.

c/o The Kohala Center • P.O. Box 437462 • Kamuela, HI 96743  
(808) 887-6411 • Fax (808) 885-6707 • schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org  
[www.HawaiiSchoolGardenHui.org](http://www.HawaiiSchoolGardenHui.org)

The school learning garden work began 7 years ago in response to these identified needs: The childhood obesity crisis and related adult diseases in children, the growing educational need for hands-on experiential learning with the new Common Core and Science Curriculum, raising consumption of fresh fruit and vegetable intake, expanding environmental awareness and building the next generation of farmers and akamai local food buyers were all compelling reasons to create school garden programs. In the Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN) Plan for 2013-2020, HDOH has identified the need for increased DOE and DOA positions for school gardens, increase in professional development opportunities and the number of gardens in schools. (See page 21) DLIR's summary report on the agricultural workforce development workshops held on each island clearly stated the need for increased agricultural education connections K-12.

Schools have been identified by HDOH as the single most important institution with the potential to improve educational and health outcomes for young people, and that the level of student wellness is related to academic achievement.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in their 2008 Strategic Plan has identified increased markets and production as two of their priorities. The next step to to merge the vibrant grassroots movement occurring in public/private/charter schools K-12 with government and agency support for these ideas and create the Hawai'i Farm to School Program with a position in the Department of Agriculture that would begin strategic interagency planning to identify interests and work with all identified stakeholders including the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i CTAHR, HFSSGH, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, etc.

Oregon began its Farm to School Program first with a position in the Department of Agriculture in 2007 adding another position in DOE Office of Child Nutrition a few years later. In the last session California created a Farm to Fork Program that includes procurement and education positions in DOA, DOE, and DOH. Farm to School positions have also been created in the Department of Agriculture in Alaska, Washington, Oklahoma, and Texas, through legislation with other states creating the position through other means.

When I spoke recently to Michelle Markesteyn Ratcliffe PhD the Farm to School Program Coordinator in Oregon's Department of Agriculture, she said, "Really where the state farm to school position is housed in Hawaii is dependent on the state's needs. For example, at this point in time, because of the tremendous resources and expertise that has been built up in the USDA's Farm to School Team (housed within Food Nutrition Services), and all the technical assistance that is in the works (and because Hawaii one has one school district the meaningful work will need to be done by the department of agriculture."

It should be stated that the department of agriculture would consult and work with the department of education to implement the intentions of this bill. We hope that the department of agriculture will consider taking the lead. Agency and government support for local procurement and agricultural education is needed to continue the interest and growth at the school and grass roots level of school learning gardens across the state without that level of support the current growth will not be able to continue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Redfeather  
Director – Hawai'i Island School Garden Network  
FoodCorps Hawai'i  
The Kohala Center

# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

*Nourishing Hawai'i's Learning Communities since 2008*



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*MA'O Organic Farms*

Miki Tomita  
*University Laboratory School*  
*Hawai'i School Peace Gardens*

Barbara Yee  
*Family and Consumer Sciences,*  
*College of Tropical Agriculture and*  
*Human Resources, University of*  
*Hawai'i at Mānoa*

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*Department of Health*  
*Healthy Hawai'i Initiative*

## TESTIMONY

House Committee on Finance  
February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

### HB1988 HD1: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) strongly supports HB1988, which will establish a farm to school program and coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

We are also requesting that the bill be amended to its original form (HB1988) with a change in the wording of lines 13-15 (from the original bill), as follows:

"2) Participating in inter-agency strategic planning, coordination, and support for agricultural education in Hawaii."

This proposed amendment to HB1988 HD1 has been discussed and agreed upon by the HFSSGH, UH CTAHR, and the Department of Agriculture.

While the procurement component of the farm to school program in Hawai'i is an obvious and extremely important part of what the program and coordinator will focus on, the agricultural education component is equally essential for many reasons, including the reestablishment of agricultural education pathways for the creation of new farmers in our state, and the cultivation of connections between students and their food so that they will eat the fresh locally grown foods served to them through increased local procurement. As an illustration of this fact, a 2010 study conducted in California showed that "preference for fruits and vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, was clearly greater in schools that coupled improvements in school lunch with classroom learning and cooking and gardening classes. In fact, younger students in these schools increased fruit and vegetable intake by nearly one and a half servings per day" ("Evaluation of the School Lunch Initiative," see Executive Summary, attached).

Strong grassroots support for these aims is already in place, with Hawai'i's farm to school movement growing steadily and in earnest since 2006 in communities throughout the state, and with the formation of the HFSSGH in 2010, which includes Farm to School and School Garden Network leaders from six islands and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health. The Department of Education School Food Services branch looks forward to collaborating with this program and position in the Department of Agriculture.

The first ever statewide school garden survey, conducted by the HFSSGH in 2012, showed that at least 43% of *all* schools in Hawai'i -- K-12, public, charter, and independent -- have a school garden. The Hawai'i Department of Health's Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), which monitors implementation of the Hawai'i Department of Education's Wellness Guidelines, found in 2011-2012 that 77% of all K-12 public schools in Hawai'i have a school garden.

In recognition of the important role of gardens in schools, the statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN) Plan 2013-2020, prepared by the Hawai'i Department of Health, includes an objective aimed at increasing the number of schools with school gardens and establishing positions within the state Departments of Agriculture and Education in support of agriculture education.

A broad scope of positive change can be realized through the creation of a statewide farm to school program and coordinator position in the Department of Agriculture, which is best suited to:

- 1) Collect much needed data regarding the availability of locally grown foods in Hawai'i;
- 2) Directly connect local farms with distributors, schools, and other institutions in order to increase procurement of locally grown foods, and;
- 3) Participate in a broad coalition to strengthen agricultural education in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1988 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lydi Morgan Bernal". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Coordinator  
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui  
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org

Attached:

"Evaluation of the School Lunch Initiative: Changing Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior in Relation to Food" Executive Summary, University of California at Berkeley



# **Evaluation of the School Lunch Initiative:**

## **Changing Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior in Relation to Food**

**A report by the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health,  
University of California at Berkeley**

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### **KEY CONTACTS**

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#### **University of California at Berkeley**

Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health:  
Suzanne Rauzon, MPH, RD, research project director  
[510.642.2915](tel:510.642.2915)  
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#### **Chez Panisse Foundation**

David Prior, communications director  
510.843.3811 (o) 510.386.1588 (c)  
[davidp@chezpanisse.com](mailto:davidp@chezpanisse.com)

#### **Center for Ecoliteracy**

Lisa Bennett, communications director  
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#### **Berkeley Unified School District**

Neil Smith, assistant superintendent  
(510) 644-6257  
[nsmith@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:nsmith@berkeley.k12.ca.us)

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The dramatic rise of childhood obesity and food-related environmental concerns has led to a focus on school food—both in terms of the quality of meals served and the state of teaching and learning about food systems, food choices, and their impact on health, the environment, and other issues.

A growing number of schools around the country have installed school gardens and attempted to change the quality of school lunches, but many of these efforts have been poorly integrated with teaching and learning.

This report examines the results of one of the first comprehensive programs in the nation, located in Berkeley, California. A collaboration among the Chez Panisse Foundation, Center for Ecoliteracy, and Berkeley Unified School District, the School Lunch Initiative was based on the hypothesis that if young people are involved in growing, cooking, and sharing fresh, healthy food while learning about it in the curriculum, they will be more likely to develop lifelong healthy eating habits and values consistent with sustainable living.

The Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Center for Weight and Health at U.C. Berkeley conducted an evaluation of the School Lunch Initiative, following 238 students as they progressed from fourth and fifth grade into middle school during the years 2006 to 2009. The goal was to determine the effects of the School Lunch Initiative on students' knowledge about nutrition, food, and the environment; attitudes toward healthy eating and environmental responsibility; and eating behaviors.

The evaluation compared students at elementary and middle schools with highly developed School Lunch Initiative components to students at schools with lesser-developed School Lunch Initiative components, over a period of three years.

*Schools with highly developed School Lunch Initiative components* offered cooking and garden classes integrated with selected classroom lessons along with improvements in school food and the dining environment.

*Schools with lesser-developed School Lunch Initiative components* primarily focused on launching the district-wide improvement in school food, but did not offer regular cooking and garden classes integrated with selected classroom lessons.

The report finds that the School Lunch Initiative was effective in increasing student nutrition knowledge as well as preference for and consumption of healthy food, especially among elementary school students. Students' attitudes about the taste and health value of school lunch improved as changes were put in place. It also found that continued School Lunch Initiative exposure into middle school may play an important role in mitigating the negative changes in eating behaviors that typically occur during adolescence.

More specifically, the key findings are:

- ⇒ More than half of the families of students in the study reported eating dinner together every day. However, fewer than 30 percent of households reported involving their child in meal preparation.
- ⇒ Parents with children in schools that coupled improvements in school lunch with classroom learning and cooking and gardening classes were more likely than

students in schools with lesser-developed programs to say that school affected their child's knowledge, attitudes, and behavior in relation to food.

- 60 percent in highly developed programs said school changed their child's knowledge about healthy food choices, compared to 36 percent in lesser-developed programs.
- 42 percent in highly developed programs said school changed their child's attitudes about food, compared to 19 percent in lesser-developed programs.
- 35 percent in highly developed programs said school improved their child's eating habits, compared to 16 percent in lesser-developed programs.

⇒ Students in schools that coupled improvements in school lunch with classroom learning and cooking and gardening classes scored higher on nutrition knowledge than those in schools with lesser-developed programs.

⇒ Preference for fruits and vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, was clearly greater in schools that coupled improvements in school lunch with classroom learning and cooking and gardening classes. In fact, younger students in these schools increased fruit and vegetable intake by nearly one and a half servings per day.

⇒ Middle school students exposed to highly developed programs were more likely than those in lesser-developed ones to:

- Feel positive about eating food served at school
- Like the cafeteria
- Think produce tastes better in season
- Agree that eating choices can help or hurt the environment

⇒ Continued exposure to healthy school lunches coupled with classroom learning and cooking and gardening classes in middle school may sustain increases in fruit and vegetable intake.

**DOWNLOAD COMPLETE REPORT AT:**

[www.chezpanissefoundation.org](http://www.chezpanissefoundation.org)

[www.ecoliteracy.org](http://www.ecoliteracy.org)

[www.schoollunchinitiative.org](http://www.schoollunchinitiative.org)



1768 Kalawi Place  
Wailuku (Maui), Hawaii 96793

February 19, 2014

**Email Testimony**

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chairwoman House Finance Committee  
[repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

House Finance Committee hearing for House Bill 1988

Vincent Mina  
President  
Maui

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Ling and Johansen, honorable committee members.

Simon Russell  
Vice-President  
Maui

HFUU is **in Support of HB 1988**.

David Case  
Secretary  
Kona

As large plots of former plantation lands are moving out of the old crops of sugar and pineapple, we would like to see agriculture have the renaissance it deserves. To do this, the keiki must be engaged, and HB 1988 does this by funding Farm to School programs and a program coordinator. We have membership actively participating in this effort, and it is a large undertaking, but very necessary to reduce the dependency on outside sources of food for our State.

Ray Maki  
Treasurer  
Kauai

Hawaii does not have enough farmers to feed our population, and the solution begins with the Keiki. We humbly ask for your support for HB 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Boyar  
Member  
Oahu

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

Simon Russell

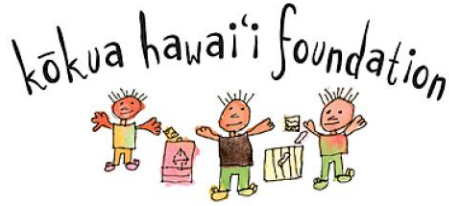
David Fisher  
Member  
Maui

Simon Russell  
Vice-President and Legislative Chair  
[www.hawaiifarmersunionunited.org](http://www.hawaiifarmersunionunited.org)

Steve Sakala  
Member  
Kona

*The Hawaii Farmers Union and its Chapters is a nonprofit corporation formed under Hawaii law. It advocates for the sovereign right of farmers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawaii through cooperation, education and legislation.*

TESTIMONY  
House Committee on Finance  
February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.



HB1988 HD1: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation strongly supports HB1988, which will establish a farm to school program and coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

As part of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui, we are also requesting that the bill be amended to its original form with a change in the wording of lines 13-15 (from the original bill), as follows: "2) Participating in inter-agency strategic planning, coordination, and support for agricultural education in Hawaii." The agricultural education component of the farm to school program is essential for cultivating connections between students and the 'āina, that which nourishes and sustains us all.

The Kokua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our mission is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. Launched in 2006, 'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school program of the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation that is currently active in 15 public and charter elementary schools throughout O'ahu, reaching over 5,700 students with hands-on nutrition, garden, and compost standards-based curricula, farm field trips, chef visits, healthy snacks, and community events.

In our experience with helping schools build the capacity needed to run successful farm to school programs, we have learned the value of established teams and coordinator positions within each school to facilitate communication and planning. The same principal has held true in our participation with our island-wide and statewide farm to school and school garden networks, where leadership by paid coordinators has allowed the movement to grow and thrive. It is clear that a program and coordinator position at the state level, focusing on both procurement and agriculture education, is a key next step in furthering our collective efforts to nourish our local agricultural economy and education system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Kim Johnson, Executive Director  
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

School Gardens: Student Reflections

What do you like about gardening? I like tasting different foods that we plant.

Why is gardening important? Gardening is important because if we didn't know about it the kids in the future wouldn't know about it.

*The educational component of farm to school programs, including school gardens and nutrition education, helps to establish life-long healthy habits for students and has shown to improve academic achievement by engaging students in cross-curricular hands-on learning.*

[www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org](http://www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org)

P.O. Box 866 Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712 Tel: (808)638-5145 Fax: (808)638-0757 [info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org](mailto:info@kokuahawaiifoundation.org)

Kokua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization supporting environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.

## TESTIMONY

House Committee on Finance  
February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

### HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

I support HB1988. I am the advisor for the Garden Club Academy at Scott Elementary. The Garden Club has been together for 4 years. It began as an intervention to teach alternative calming strategies for my students that I provide counseling students for 2 years. The benefits have been great and we began academies at Scott Elementary. The first children who attended Garden Club were in the A+ Program at Scott Elementary in grades K through 6. Due to logistics and only myself working with the children, subsequent years have only incorporated grades 1 through 6, and this year grades 3 through 6. However, many of children who have been in the Garden Club from Kindergarten were invited to attend since they have the experience and many enjoyed the program.

Presently we are using the curriculum designed and shared by Kokua Hawaii Foundation. The inception of their educators' program in the Fall and now in the Spring, has given an organized curriculum to teaching the aspects of gardening for children. I have added lessons from other sources since KHF's program allows this.

I feel having a statewide organizer to oversee the program will benefit the Farm to School program in an approachable, organized way for educators and others who feel children are our legacy for caring for the land and returning Hawaii to an agricultural-based community again.

I have attached writings from my students in answering the question, "Do you like having a garden? List 3 reasons why." (10 submissions)

Please consider HB 1988 becoming a law.

Thank you,

Sharon Lau Aldueso, DCSW  
Behavioral Health Specialist  
Alvah A. Scott Elementary School  
98-1230 Moanalua Road  
Aiea, HI 96701  
 [\(808\) 485-5136 ext. 259](tel:(808)485-5136)

## Garden Reflection



**Directions:** Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



1 I do like to have a garden.

2 It is so fun.

3 I get to plant.

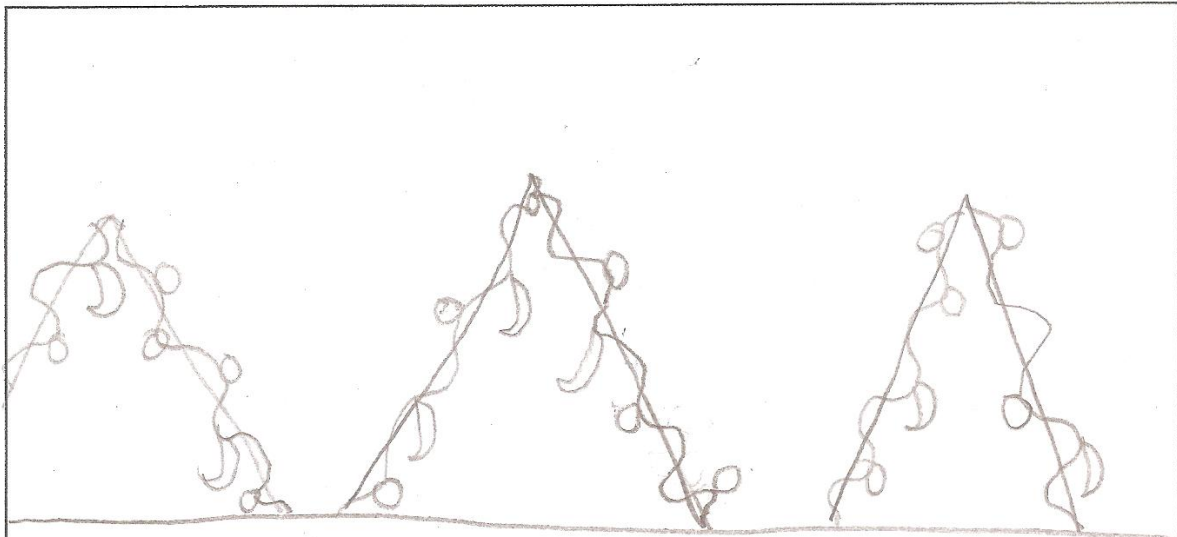
I like to play



## Garden Reflection



**Directions:** Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



Yes because I like to plant fruits  
and vegetables and because I have  
fun with my friends and I like it be-  
cause it is fun.



## Garden Reflection



**Directions:** Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



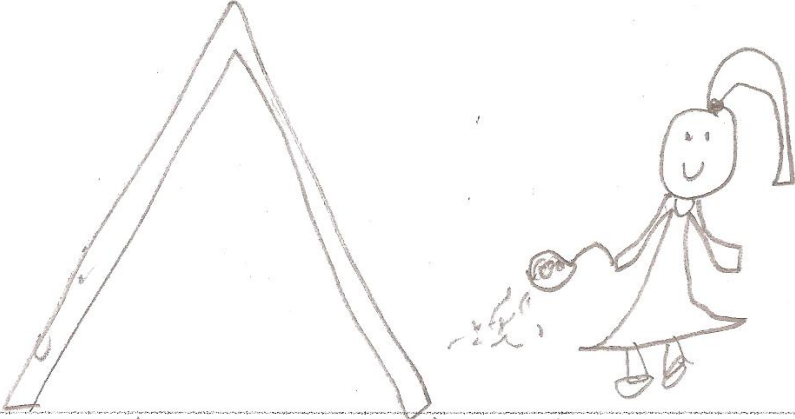
I would like to have a  
garden because I can  
have free food and I  
can eat fresh fruit. I can

grow  
food

## Garden Reflection



Directions: Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



I like having a garden because some  
or all the plants give oxygen and the  
flowers smell good and the things you  
plant you eat and you need food to eat.



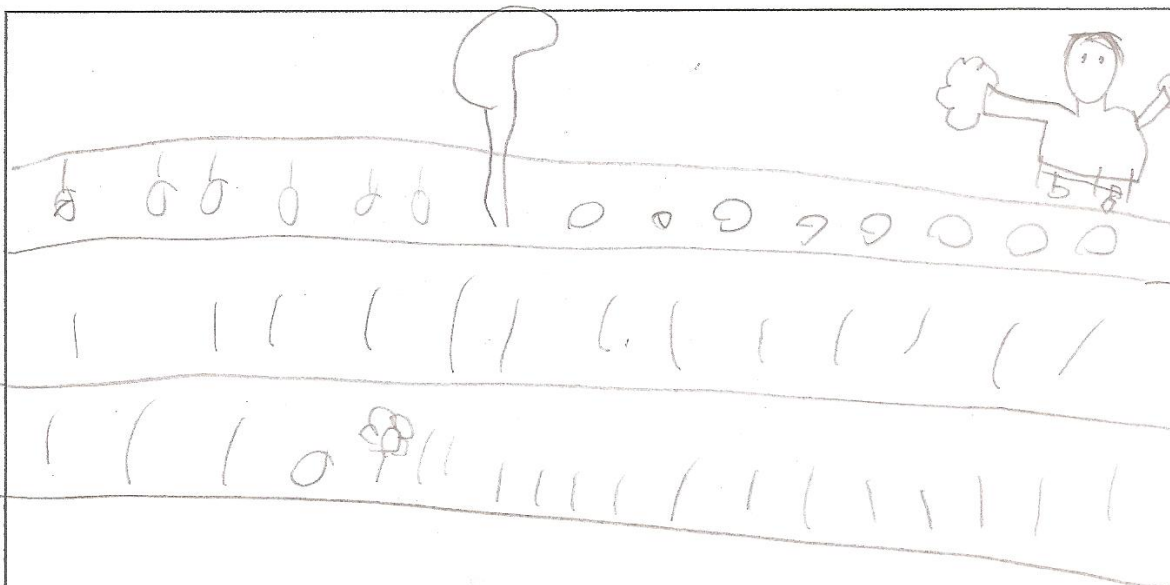
Name Austen

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1/31/14

# Garden Reflection



Directions: Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



I like the Garden because

I can pick fruits and

vegetable and my second reason is

it I like to work with

people in the garden and my third reason is

helping people work on growing.

## Garden Reflection



Directions: Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



I like having a garden because  
I can take care of our garden.  
And see the plants. And eat  
fresh vegetables.

## Garden Reflection

Directions: Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



I like gardening because  
it is fun to play and  
feed the worms and the  
looking at the fish.

## Garden Reflection



**Directions:** Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.

I like gardening because I can learn more for my garden in for my self and my famaly thats why i have a garden in my Papas house

And I can grow it better.

## Garden Reflection



**Directions:** Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



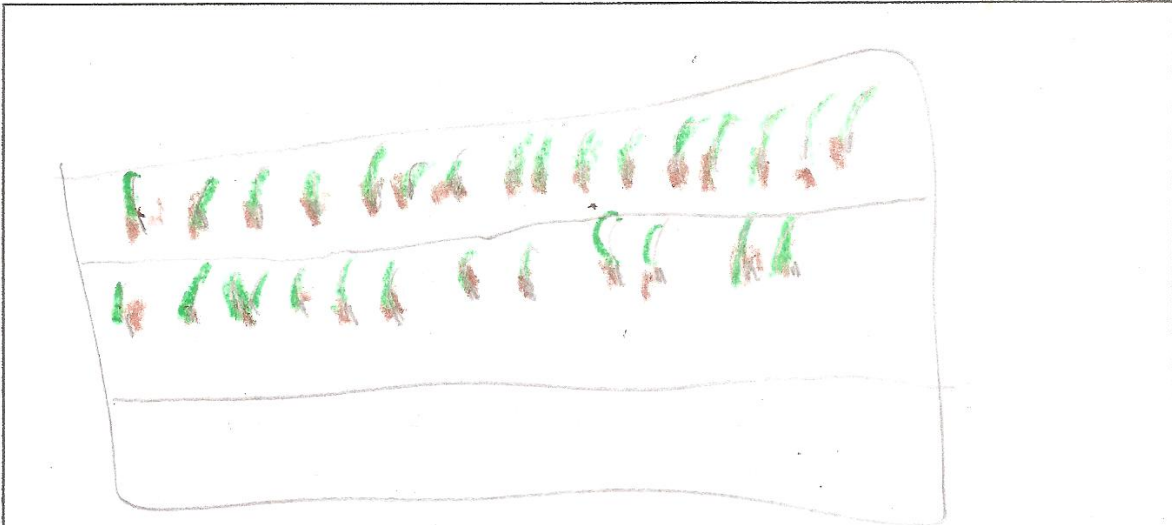
I would like to have a garden  
because you get to grow fruits and  
vegetables. I get to eat the food.  
And I get to harvested.



## Garden Reflection B



Directions: Answer the question that your teacher selects by drawing and writing in the spaces provided below.



I like a a garden  
because it gives you food.  
I like a garden because  
I can see the plant.

I like a garden because you  
can eat the vegetable.



**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:40 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** natalie@kokuahawaiifoundation.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie McKinney    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:05 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** foodsovereignty@now@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mitsuko Hayakawa    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:29 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kalikoamona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaliko Amona        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:56 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** viajenryan@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Ryan       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Investing in a statewide farm to school program could positively impact multiple sectors including agriculture, labor, education, and health. Hawaii needs to join the other states that are already taking advantage of this USDA funded program.

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**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:34 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** olin.lagon@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Olin Lagon          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Wonderful Bill, wonderful opportunity for our keiki. We must invest in our own food systems and this Bill helps make important connections in our schools as well as fund a position to realize the goals of the Bill. Having worked in large, state wide campaigns around our local food systems there is overwhelming support for programs that shore up our next generation of agriculture leaders. Mahalo, Olin

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**finance1**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 3:36 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**FIN-Jo**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 3:36 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lottj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JONATHAN LOTT       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: This bill should help streamline the process of getting local/garden food into the cafeterias. While my school cafeteria (Farrington) does an outstanding job of making the meals as appealing and nutritious as possible--probably best caf staff on the island--they are hamstrung by red tape to do more in the way of local/garden sourcing and also in reducing their waste stream of polystyrene and other non-compostables, which become a litter problem on campus. All schools should have gardens, compost, and hands- on agriculture experiences for the students. Small farming has a good future in Hawaii and we should prepare students to be the leaders.

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House Committee on Finance

February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE



Aloha Members of the Committee,

I represent a program called Farm to Keiki, a farm to preschool program, and strongly support HB1988, which will establish a farm to school program and coordinator position within the Hawai'i.

I have had experience working with school garden and farm to school programs across the state since 2009. I have personally witnessed an exponential increase of interest to grow school gardens and purchase and serve locally-grown food for school meals and snacks over the past five years. Along with the nationwide trend for these types of programs, support organizations and individuals such as the the Farm to School and School Garden Hui and island-specific networks have been an incredible driving force for making these programs grow and be successful. Schools value Farm to School programs, but need support to make these programs successful. This is especially true for local food procurement, since our current system does not support these initiatives.

While there is a great interest for these programs by teachers, students, parents and the community at large, it is evident that the programs continue to struggle for sustainability or even the possibility to be initiated. Having a designated individual to pave a pathway for these programs would ensure that every school in Hawai'i would have the resources and support to have their own school garden and farm to school program. Statewide school garden and farm to school efforts need an individual who can focus on cross departmental issues and create opportunities that all of Hawaii's students deserve... to have an integrated school garden curriculum and to be served the freshest and healthiest food available.

States such as Oregon and Washington who have created a Farm to School Coordinator position and a Farm to School Program have become the national leaders in these types of programs. Hawai'i has the opportunity to join these states and lead our nation to a healthier and more wholesome education, while also supporting our local agriculture economy. It is difficult for Farm to School programs to occur in our current environment, yet a Farm to School coordinator could be the key to breaking down barriers and building new creative solutions to make these programs possible.

In 2010, I started the Kaua'i School Garden Network and worked with 89% of Kaua'i's schools to implement school gardens and farm to school programs. I have also worked to



implement farm to preschool programs in nineteen preschools on Kaua'i and two preschools on Oahu. 100% of Kauai's K-12 schools and all 21 preschools wanted to serve their students local fresh fruits and vegetables for their snacks or school lunches. 100% of these schools principals and/or teachers valued the education of school gardens and were interested in starting a garden or enhancing their school garden efforts.

Additional benefits of Farm to School Programs as stated by the Farm to School Network:

- The choice of healthier options in the cafeteria through farm to school meals results in consumption of more fruits and vegetables with an average increase of 0.99 to 1.3 servings per day, including at home.
- Schools report a 3 to 16 percent increase in school meal participation when farm-fresh food is served through farm to school programs.
- Farm to school programs open new markets for farmers and help expand their customer base by raising awareness about local food systems.
- Farm to school programs are also known to increase school meal participation rates.

The demand for these programs in Hawai'i is clear. The use of the funds appropriated for this position will create exponential benefits. The position and program this bill creates if passed will make Hawai'i a leader in school garden and farm to school efforts, support our agriculture economy and improve the health and education of Hawaii's keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration to pass HB1988.

Tiana Kamen  
Farm to Keiki, Founder and Director

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:07 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mandalaluna@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Holloway   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support HB1988 and ask you to do the same. Feeding our keiki healthy, locally grown food is one of the best ways to ensure a healthy future generation. It also supports local food production, which leads to food security, so vital for an island community like ours. Mahalo for supporting HB1988!

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:26 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hilobliss@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| joy cash     | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Teach & encourage health.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:29 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Imaruyama@hano-hawaii.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014  
 Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Maruyama | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and members of the Finance Committee: I am a parent of children at Nu`uanu Elementary School and Kawananakoa Middle School and am a strong supporter of public education. Through the years, I have been concerned about the quality of the food served by the DOE to the kids. Much of the meats served are processed meats, canned vegetables and fruit that numerous studies show are not healthy for us. I support the idea of an institutional program of school farms, as well as the exemption of meats and plant items from the procurement process so that the DOE may source its food from local farmers and school sites. This kind of procurement could change the scale of local purchasing in our state, give farmers the capacity and economies of scale to increase their production, improve the economy and ensure our food sustainability over time. School farms will also provide avenues for healthy, fresh food as well as the development of related, creative cross-disciplinary curricula involving the core subjects of math, reading and writing, as well as social studies, science and art, particularly the culinary arts. As such, I strongly support any effort to dedicate resources to this effort and hope that resources can also be attached to the DOE and the Procurement Office so that there can be a multi-agency coordination of this very important effort. Our keiki and families deserve no less. Mahalo for your attention to this important issue and apologies for the late testimony. Lisa Maruyama Concerned Parent Resident of District 25

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:04 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lorihiga@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lori Nakamura-Higa  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:57 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** islekisses@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Burch           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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finance1

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:04 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mauimagic5711@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann Evans           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**LATE**

February 20, 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Maui School Garden Network is a member of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui. In 2012 the HFSSGH published its first statewide school garden survey with the following key findings: 168 school gardens, 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 30 acres of land. MSGN was first established in the fall of 2008 and currently includes 41 out of 46 K-12 schools on the islands of Maui and Lāna'i.

\*MSGN supports **HB 1988/HSCR296-14 HD1** which provides for a Hawai'i Farm to School Program and Farm to School Coordinator coming out of the Department of Agriculture.

\*MSGN has a goal of integrating an agricultural strand throughout the K-12 curriculum of its member schools. School gardens as living labs provide hands-on project oriented learning opportunities that connect with all the disciplines taught in our schools. These connections were presented most recently by the MSGN Director to two STEM workshops this past week on Maui provided by the Central Maui Complex Area STEM Coordinator, one for elementary school teachers and one for intermediate and high school teachers.

\*MSGN has been in dialogue with UHMC agriculture instructors concerning articulation of agricultural learning between the high school ag programs and UHMC. In fact, UHMC is the first college in the state to implement the AS degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Technology providing more opportunities for our youth to pursue careers in agriculture at the collegiate level.

\*MSGN, as a member of the HFSSGH, believes that this bill will further the goals of improving our youth's access to nutritious foods while also helping them understand the importance of agriculture in addressing their future career choices.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ms. Lehn Huff  
Maui School Garden Network  
P.O. Box 458



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:36 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM



**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Support.

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**From:** tewa heartsong <mandalaluna@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 12:12 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB1988 Farm to School Program

Aloha,  
I strongly support HB1988 and ask you to do the same. Feeding our keiki healthy, locally grown food is one of the best ways to ensure a healthy future generation. It also supports local food production, which leads to food security, so vital for an island community like ours. Mahalo for supporting HB1988!

Warm Regards,

Victoria Holloway, Kilauea, Kauai



**finance8-Danyl**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:02 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** aileenwilkie@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Wilkie            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Please support this bill. All children need healthy local grown food. Mahalo

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House Committee on Finance

February 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

**LATE**

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I represent a program called Farm to Keiki, a farm to preschool program, and strongly support HB1988, which will establish a farm to school program and coordinator position within the Hawai'i.

I have had experience working with school garden and farm to school programs across the state since 2009. I have personally witnessed an exponential increase of interest to grow school gardens and purchase and serve locally-grown food for school meals and snacks over the past five years. Along with the nationwide trend for these types of programs, support organizations and individuals such as the the Farm to School and School Garden Hui and island-specific networks have been an incredible driving force for making these programs grow and be successful. Schools value Farm to School programs, but need support to make these programs successful. This is especially true for local food procurement, since our current system does not support these initiatives.

While there is a great interest for these programs by teachers, students, parents and the community at large, it is evident that the programs continue to struggle for sustainability or even the possibility to be initiated. Having a designated individual to pave a pathway for these programs would ensure that every school in Hawai'i would have the resources and support to have their own school garden and farm to school program. Statewide school garden and farm to school efforts need an individual who can focus on cross departmental issues and create opportunities that all of Hawaii's students deserve... to have an integrated school garden curriculum and to be served the freshest and healthiest food available.

States such as Oregon and Washington who have created a Farm to School Coordinator position and a Farm to School Program have become the national leaders in these types of programs. Hawai'i has the opportunity to join these states and lead our nation to a healthier and more wholesome education, while also supporting our local agriculture economy. It is difficult for Farm to School programs to occur in our current environment, yet a Farm to School coordinator could be the key to breaking down barriers and building new creative solutions to make these programs possible.

In 2010, I started the Kaua'i School Garden Network and worked with 89% of Kaua'i's schools to implement school gardens and farm to school programs. I have also worked to

implement farm to preschool programs in nineteen preschools on Kaua'i and two preschools on Oahu. 100% of Kauai's K-12 schools and all 21 preschools wanted to serve their students local fresh fruits and vegetables for their snacks or school lunches. 100% of these schools principals and/or teachers valued the education of school gardens and were interested in starting a garden or enhancing their school garden efforts.

Additional benefits of Farm to School Programs as stated by the Farm to School Network:

- The choice of healthier options in the cafeteria through farm to school meals results in consumption of more fruits and vegetables with an average increase of 0.99 to 1.3 servings per day, including at home.
- Schools report a 3 to 16 percent increase in school meal participation when farm-fresh food is served through farm to school programs.
- Farm to school programs open new markets for farmers and help expand their customer base by raising awareness about local food systems.
- Farm to school programs are also known to increase school meal participation rates.

The demand for these programs in Hawai'i is clear. The use of the funds appropriated for this position will create exponential benefits. The position and program this bill creates if passed will make Hawai'i a leader in school garden and farm to school efforts, support our agriculture economy and improve the health and education of Hawaii's keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration to pass HB1988.

Tiana Kamen  
Farm to Keiki, Founder and Director

**finance8-Danyl**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:40 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jsenhydra@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Silver          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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