



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/22/2013

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0478,HD2(hscr518) RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture. Allows nonprofit organizations to establish and administer fresh food distribution services. Effective July 1, 2013.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports school garden programs and curriculum related activities; but does not support amended new section in H.D. 2, as written.

Policies and procedures must be defined before commingling school garden produce with inventory procured to meet the federal meal pattern and food safety guidelines. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, traceability and liability lines must be established in case of food borne illnesses.

Processing raw, harvested produce will require addition cafeteria staff training, especially for high risk, commodity specific produce such as sprouts, melons, tomatoes, and leafy greens. Funding for additional labor hours associated with processing produce will be required. Currently, fifty-five percent of the full cost of a school lunch is labor.

The federal nutrition program requires equity in terms of availability and equal access of foods served to students participating in federal nutrition programs. DOE school gardens do not provide sufficient harvested quantities to meet meal participation needs.

Administration of a fresh food distribution service to a DOE school should also prescribe to the same standards of food safety, liability, equity, with established policies and procedures.



HB478 HD2
Relating to the Department of Education
House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2013

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB478 HD2, which would authorize schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture. It also allows nonprofit organizations to establish and administer fresh food distribution services.

OHA's strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents our commitment to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and quality of life by reducing the onset of chronic diseases. Obesity is a common condition of chronic diseases, and data suggests that Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are at greater risk for obesity and health complications. As such, OHA's Health Advocacy Initiative Core & Advisory Team is focusing its efforts on decreasing Native Hawaiian obesity rates in relation to Hawai'i's general population.

A pragmatic and holistic approach to address health disparities in our community is to encourage school gardens. School gardens have the potential to show children how to grow a variety of foods and increase their preference for and consumption of vegetables and fruits. In turn, by using the school garden as a teaching tool, it can demonstrate how to improve a diet with home-grown produce. A school garden also has the ability to provide children with a meaningful connection between the land they work on to grow their food, and how it supports a healthy sustainable community for themselves and their family.

At the same time, there is significant support for school gardens on state, national, and global platforms. Through the Farm to School and School Garden Hui, U.S. Department of Agriculture – People's Garden School Pilot Program, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, these government and non-government organizations state the necessity of supporting school gardens. These gardens provide children with hands-on learning opportunities that further support the notion of food security, environmental protection, and better nutrition.

Therefore, OHA urges this committee to **PASS** HB478 HD2. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 22, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 478, HD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Room 308
11:00 AM

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

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports the intent of HB 478, HD2, which would allow schools to grow food in schools gardens for consumption in the school lunch program.

HFBF believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture. School garden programs achieve this by helping to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture through hands-on learning. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice.

By participating in school garden programs our children can gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture, adopt healthier eating habits, and develop a stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. A school garden is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to having well informed, farmers, consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

HFBF does have concerns with potential risks associated with food safety. We defer to DOA and DOE to address any safety concerns associated with school gardens and the consumption of school garden grown foods in the school lunch program.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Testimony of Phyllis Dendle

Before:

House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

February 22, 2013
11:00 am
Conference Room 308

HB 478 HD2 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Luke and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 478 HD2 permitting the consumption in schools of food grown in the school garden.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

As part of our commitment to improving community health, Kaiser Permanente supports this bill that could expand the creation of school gardens and encourage greater consumption of fruits and vegetables by school children. We've seen that when our keiki have the chance to be part of the planting, nurturing and harvesting of fruits and vegetable they are more eager eat fruits and vegetables.

Over the last few years the community benefit program at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii has given special attention to programs that create school gardens. The physician's of the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group and staff of Kaiser Permanente have volunteered on several occasions to help with preparing areas in schools to be used for school gardens. We urge the state to support this program so more schools can participate and more children can benefit from the healthy food and healthy exercise these gardens can provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | The Kohala Center - HISGN | Comments Only | No |

Comments: School Gardens and High School Agricultural Programs who want to move produce from the Garden to the Cafeteria need to become GAP Certified, unless they are a Charter or Independent School, who of course should use good Food Safety Practices Also. The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui working with Jim Hollyer (UH Manoa) has developed Guidelines and protocols for School Garden food. Creating as many open pathways as possible for food to flow from Farms to Cafeteria will be extremely helpful.

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FINTestimony

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: namaka@interpac.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Lander | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: truly.joannies@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joannie Pan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: maliadamon@gmail.com
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HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Damon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: kmt.amos@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelsey Amos | Individual | Support | No |

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Cc: cravegreens@gmail.com
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HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crystal Thornburg-Homcy | Individual | Support | No |

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: jcbanna@hawaii.edu
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HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jinan Banna | Individual | Support | No |

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Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Emmons | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: hunakai5@aol.com
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HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelly Perry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Cc: dc25@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danielle Vassalotti | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: Kalikoamona@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaliko Amona | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: mironesc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monique Mironesco | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Dear Finance Committee members: I support the intent of HB 478 that schools should be able to grow food and serve it to children in their cafeterias once safe food handling procedures and Good Agricultural Practices have been established. However, it is ridiculous that the implementation date for this measure would be July 1, 2050. Don't our children and our state deserve better? Hawai'i is highly dependent on imported foods and this program would essentially serve two purposes. First, it would help children make connections between agriculture and where their food comes from, beyond just the supermarket. This is especially important given that the average age for farmers in Hawai'i is 58 and that we are in desperate need of a new generation of farmers to grow our food. Second, it would help reduce our dependence on imported foods and commodities for school lunches. If the school lunch program was able to grow its own food and serve it to school children, it would reduce costs as well, which is obviously always an incentive to pass a measure. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Aloha, Dr. Monique Mironesco

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Cc: essentialhealth2@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB478

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela rosa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: more self sufficiency needed on all islands and children's participation in feeding themselves.

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Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM

HB478

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Breene | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha Representatives, I urge you to pass HB478 to allow all Hawaii schools to grow food to be served in their school meal programs. Not only will we boost the economy but we will also greatly improve the health of students, and thereby their families and communities. Mahalo, Angela Breene Haleiwa, HI

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