

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

LATE

Date: 01/31/2013

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0478 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 (DOE) supports school garden programs and curriculum related activities.

The DOE does not support the amended new section, as written, relating to school gardens and consumption of produce in federally funded school meals programs.

In addition to food safety, liability and equity procedures and policies must be established. There may be additional costs associated with processing that is not in the budget.

Administration of a fresh food distribution service to a DOE school should also prescribe to the same standards.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

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

January 31, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 478
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Room 312
9:00 AM

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 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.

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM*



HB478

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for AGR on Jan 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

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



**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY, 31, 2013
Room 312
9:00 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 478
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 478, which proposes to allow all schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in their school meals programs which shall be inspected and certified as safe by the department of agriculture. The department offers comments.

The federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was created to help the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) address the key elements of food safety. On January 16, 2013, FDA published proposed the first two of five regulations to implement FSMA. At the state level, it appears that the Department of Health will hold the main responsibility of implementation. The Department would recommend a closer inspection of the upcoming FSMA rules and how those rules may determine the appropriate roles for the various state entities. One such vehicle for this conversation could be through the good agricultural practices task force that is being created by legislation that is currently moving through the legislature.



The Department of Education School Food Services Branch is responsible for the quality, quantity, price-appropriateness, and safety of the food provided to Hawaii public schools. Therefore, we would also defer to the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch for comment.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.