

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 01/27/2014

**Committee:** House Education/House Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1571 RELATING TO GARDENS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish school and community gardens.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) does not support HB 1571. This bill places additional responsibilities to create a school garden program upon the Department without an appropriation.



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA'KO  
KALAELOA

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Governor

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Chairperson

Anthony J. H. Ching  
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STATEMENT OF  
ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ON  
Monday, January 27, 2014

2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

**H.B. 1571 – RELATING TO GARDENS.**

**Purpose:** Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to develop programs that provide incentives to establish school and community gardens.

**Position:** While supporting the intent of this proposal, I provide the following comments. However, it should be noted that this testimony reflects only my view point, as the Authority has not yet had an opportunity to review and act as a group on this measure.

During legislative hearings on HB 560 Relating to Affordable Housing Urban Gardening last year, I testified that instead of establishing a credit system, the HCDA has established a development standard that promotes environmentally green activities, such as urban gardening, for all new development projects.

As HB 560 was enacted as Act 202 SLH 2013, the HCDA has sought to encourage developers to select urban gardening as one method by which the developer might achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) points in reducing the heat island effect; water efficient landscaping and sustainable site design.

Testimony reflects the view and position of the Executive Director and not that of the Authority.

**Lack of Appropriation.** I note that no appropriations are included in this legislative proposal to:

- Cover the cost of land acquisition (e.g., rental of school lands, use of private lands);
- Water connection and ongoing service costs;
- Supply costs; and
- Security to maintain/protect the site and crops.

**A Statewide Issue.** As the Department of Education (DOE) maintains a statewide inventory of school lands and the Kakaako (McKinley High School) and Kalaeloa (Barbers Point Elementary School) Community Development Districts contain but one school facility in each district, the HCDA defers to the Department of Education to designate how, when, what incentives are necessary and where public school lands are available and community partnering is needed to develop the school and community gardens that is envisioned by this proposal. As these school and community gardening sites become designated and where those sites coincide with lands that the HCDA exercises jurisdiction, I will utilize whatever device is available to me to coordinate our efforts with the DOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this legislative proposal.



**House Committee on Education**

The Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
The Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

**House Committee on Higher Education**

The Hon. Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
The Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HB 1571**

**Relating to Gardens**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer  
January 27, 2014, 2:00 pm, Room 309**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 1571, authorizes the development of programs to establish school and community gardens.

The HPCCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 1571 speaks to one of these major determinants directly by supporting the establishment of school and community gardens. Such programs enrich the health of a community by providing access to fresh produce, as well as setting a strong example for future generations.

For these reasons, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 1571 which would support school and community gardens in Hawaii. As a Coordinator for the Hawaii Island School Garden Network, I see the value of school gardens as an extension of the classroom as an outdoor learning center. Students need to have access to school gardens for studies in environmental science, nutrition education, physical education, wellness and to learn how to grow food. School and community gardens are returning in great numbers across the nation and Hawaii already has a School Garden Network which is growing.

Mahalo,

Donna Mitts

Hawaii Island School Garden Network

The Kohala Center

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 5:32 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM

**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: According to the latest SAWS Survey by the Department of Health close to 80% of schools in Hawaii have school gardens. Yet the Department of Education does not yet support school gardens. School Gardens provide a space for place based, experiential learning connecting Common Core and Science concepts to the real world in an engaging way. School Gardens also immerse children in hands-on nutritional education that will create habits that will last a lifetime. School Gardens provide the need link between the child, nature, environmental stewardship, health, and culture/community. Asking HDOE to support school and community gardens is an excellent idea, however UH Manoa is not the only entity that can act as a consultant. For the past 7 years School Garden Networks on every island (see [www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org](http://www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org)) have been consulting with 100s of schools on 6 Hawaiian Islands. The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui HFSSGH should also be listed as a consultant along with UH Manoa Master Gardeners, CTAHR Cooperative Extension, and the Department of Agriculture.

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January 26, 2014

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

The Maui School Garden Network is a member of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui. It was first started in the fall of 2008 and currently includes 41 out of 46 K-12 schools on the islands of Maui and Lāna'i as well as 15 partner organizations including the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at UHMC and the Sustainable Living Institute's Community Garden Program on the UHMC campus.

\*MSGN supports HB 1571 which promotes school and community gardens. We believe this bill will help bring incentives to our schools and community organizations to promote the importance of growing our food locally here in Hawai'i.

\*MSGN is currently promoting nutrition in our schools through school garden programs that utilize master gardeners and CTAHR staff advice, public educational offerings, and printed materials to engage in best practices for food safety and handling.

\*In 2011 MSGN participated with all six island school garden coordinators through the HFSSGH to create the garden poster, "Fresh, Healthy, and Safe. Best Practices for Growing and Using Produce Grown in Hawai'i School Gardens PreK-8" that puts the 16 page CTAHR-University of Hawai'i at Mānoa document, "Student and Food Safety: Best Practices for Hawai'i School Gardens" document into language understandable to our teachers and their students in a form that can be posted at every garden site.

\*Community Gardens have been installed on Maui by MSGN's partner, Mālama Maui Nui, for the Ka Hale A Ke Ola homeless shelter site that services 100 children and 300 families and MSGN is currently helping to create a garden site at Maui Memorial Hospital. This bill will help to provide the incentives to keep these gardens maintained and growing.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ms. Lehn Huff  
Maui School Garden Network  
P.O. Box 458  
Haiku, Hawaii 96708

# Hawai'i Farm to School

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

# and School Garden Hui



## **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*

## **Mauī & Lāna'i**

Lehn Huff  
Rebekah Kuby  
*Mauī 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: HB1571 Relating to Education/School and Community Gardens

Monday January 27 at 2:00 p.m. Room 309

Nancy Redfeather

Director: Hawai'i Island School Garden Network-The Kohala Center

Member: Farm to School and School Garden Hui

Director: FoodCorps Hawai'i

Director: Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative

Aloha Chairs Takumi and Choy Vice-Chairs Ohno and Ichiyama and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui represents the interests of School Garden Networks on every Island, as well as our partners. See side bar. Key Findings in our 2012 "Growing Learning Gardens" HDOE 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.

Providing "incentives" for the creation of school learning gardens or community gardens is a good idea. School gardens need a garden educator that is trained to work with faculty to develop hands-on curriculum and connect with core subject areas. School gardens need seeds, tools, often soil and materials to build a toolshed or a small shade house. There are many ways to provide incentives to schools to build, maintain or grow their school gardens.

Consultation on best practices with appropriate sources of such information could be delivered by the UH Manoa Master Gardeners program, the CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, or the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui.

Sincerely,

Nancy Redfeather

Director Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

FoodCorps Hawai'i

The Kohala Center

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)



## TESTIMONY

House Committee on Education

January 27, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

### HB1571: RELATING TO GARDENS

Dear Members of the Committee,

I represent a program called Farm to Keiki, a farm to preschool program, and support HB1571, which will authorize the department of education and the Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within communities with one amendment.

I would like to amend the section of the bill that states, "provided that the college of tropical agriculture and human resources of the University of Hawaii at Manoa shall be consulted regarding best practices in urban gardening, including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community gardening."

I have had experience working with school garden and farm to school programs across the state since 2009 and know that there are many organizations, such as the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) and its members that work directly with schools to support school gardens. While CTAHR may be an important consultant and support organization to support best practices in urban gardening, I would like to recommend that the bill be amended to say "provided that the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) be consulted regarding best practices in school gardening.

The HFSSGH is a statewide collaborative of school garden networks and organizations. The HFSSGH members currently offer many services to P-20 teachers and community members statewide including: professional development, dialog among teachers-leaders, garden development/consultations/planning, curriculum resources, volunteer development, connections to island resources, an annual statewide school garden and farm to school conference, and funding opportunities. The HFSSGH supports many of the school garden programs across the state. In 2012, the HFSSGH conducted a study of school garden and farm to school programs in Hawaii. The 243 schools that responded indicated that Hawai'i has 168 school gardens on 30 acres of land and involves 21,577 students and 830 teachers. Many of these schools have been successful in establishing and maintaining school gardens based on the efforts of the HFSSGH.

I have had experience working with school garden and farm to school programs across the state since 2009. In 2010, I started the Kaua'i School Garden Network and worked with 89% of Kaua'i's schools to support their school garden efforts. I have also worked to implement farm to preschool programs with school gardens in nineteen preschools on Kaua'i and two preschools on Oahu. I am also a member of the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui.

Passing this bill will increase the support that schools have to start and maintain school gardens, ultimately increasing the quality of education and health for all of Hawaii's keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration to pass HB1988 with the amendment that the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui shall be consulted for best practices with school gardens.

Tiana Kamen  
Farm to Keiki, Founder and Director

## Jenna Takenouchi

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:10 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kellensmith@placeshawaii.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM

### **HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kellen Smith	University of Hawai'i PALS Program	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, We support this bill! Our organization trains teachers to use school gardens as part of their curriculum. We have partnered with 8 schools on the Waianae Coast. Several of them have gardens where the learning is enhanced through project-based learning and place. I have been trained by the Kohala Center under Nancy Redfeather, Dr. Ming Wei Koh, and Amanda Rieux. We have an incredible support network in place to give teachers the tools they need to succeed in this type of teaching and learning. But we haven't even scratched the surface yet. This bill will help us reach more schools and have a greater impact on the state. Thank you for hearing this bill! Malama Pono, Kellen Smith UH PALS Program Coordinator

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**Jenna Takenouchi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:05 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** gerkalert79@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM

**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Gehrke	PLACES	Support	No

Comments: School Learning Gardens are beneficial to the student, teacher, community and island due to creating a positive learning environment and developing sustainable thinking in the minds of these individuals. Every subject being taught in school today can be directly linked and used within a garden curriculum. Please consider the important choice in providing an opportunity to give life and creativity in a form that is so relevant to our place and health of Hawaii's keiki.

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Dear Rep Souki:

I am writing in support of HB 1571 related to the incentives to create school gardens. I am Director of two place-based programs along the Waianae Coast – supporting over 75 teachers and 800 students in eight schools in the Nanakuli/Waianae Complex. Issues of sustainability consistently, and naturally, arise as relevant and engaging projects for students and teachers.

As students as teachers prepare for the Smarter Balanced Assessment system, projects related to school gardens easily incorporate science, language arts, and math standards. School gardens also provide opportunities for the development and implementation of projects that directly address authentic issues/challenges within students' communities.

We find that once students learn that they can impact the health, economy and sustainability of their community – they are 'all in'. And, opportunities to engage in the aina through gardens touches students 'spirit' in amazing ways. Recently, we worked with an elementary student at Waianae elementary who was identified as severe behavior problem. So much so, that he was not allowed to participate in group activities with other students – and was isolated during the school day. We brought the student to the school garden and provided him with his own small garden plot. This student regularly tended his garden. It soothed his anxiety and calmed his anger. Recently, this student successfully participated as part of a group at school – a huge success.

We have recently begun an internship pilot program with Nanakuli High School students with the goal of growing and harvesting produce for healthy snacks for elementary students along the Coast. Students at Nanakuli Intermediate just won a competition at Hyatt Hotels for their creation of a healthy snack. Students worked with a community elder to explore opportunities to return to the aina for their health. The prize winning healthy snack will be on the Hyatt menu for the next six weeks.

Hawaii is in dire need of efforts such as a school gardens – both for health reasons and reconnecting students to the aina. I urge you to pass this Bill; and I look forward to hearing of the passage of HB1571.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kay Fukuda

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 2:23 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<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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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:55 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** margebonar@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM

**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Bonar	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Predicating actions on the sole advice of a sorely overworked Extension service is a possible roadblock for projects. There are myriad experts qualified to assist the School Garden prpograms. Please amend language.

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**Jenna Takenouchi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:02 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** unmanib@maui.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Unmani Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 1:37 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jshon@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1571 on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM



**HB1571**

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for EDN/HED on Jan 27, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jim Shon	Hawaii Educational Policy Center	Support	Yes

Comments: TESTIMONY BY JIM SHON DIRECTOR, HAWAII EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER HB 1571 Status RELATING TO GARDENS. Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish school and community gardens. HEPC is in strong support of expending STEM education through the use of community gardens run by schools and located at school grounds. HEPC does have a concern relating to the use of pesticides in rural areas. A recent ordinance adopted on Kauai that creates buffer zones around schools was opposed by several corporations that commonly spray large tracts of land near residential areas and schools. Apparently there is a current law suit resisting these buffer zones, and significant denial that there may be health concerns. Ideally, either this bill or another vehicle, the health and safety of public students and faculty would be protected by establishment of MINIMUM (not pre-emptive) buffer zones. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**LATE**

Testimony:

My name is Joy N. Gallina and I feel passionate about school gardening projects. In my own life I have seen how proper nutrition affects my physical, emotional and mental health. When I fill my diet with fresh fruits and vegetables, I feel stronger and more alive, my digestion improves and I have less room on my plate for refined carbohydrates and sugars. Hawaiians were farmers and hunters years ago. We have incredible resources in land and soil here on the islands. Furthermore, many families struggle financially here, and it is difficult to feed a family with the astronomically high prices we find in our grocery stores. Also, teaching and encouraging children to garden will increase the amount of time they spend outdoors, which is proven to be good for their maturing bodies and minds, and is especially important in this time of booming technology. And so, I am for this bill because I believe that the impacts will improve the financial, physical and mental health of our children, and the community at large.

Aloha,

Joy N. Gallina