



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014  
9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1988  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1988. This bill would establish a Hawaii farm to school program 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 through increased purchase of foods grown in Hawaii by state agencies and coordination of agricultural education from preschool through high school and at the university level. While the Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure, it should be clear that the Department of Education and the State Procurement Office need to have active roles in this program in order for it to be successful.

The Department 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. As this bill is still alive we feel it would be the best way forward.

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



**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 8:18 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** elysa.hoaaina@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
elysa ermatinger	Ho'a 'Aina O Makaha	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 11:13 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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February 25, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1988. As a resident of Waianae , I have seen how, so many keiki benefit from learning in a garden. They not only learn important hands on skills; but they learn history, science, math, art, literacy develop cultural awareness, develop a healthier diet and self esteem and may even learn an alternative way to support their families in the future. I have visited various school gardens and have seen how successful they have become. Please support HB 1988. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana De Stefano

January 25, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Hawaii Bill 1988. I have been an educator for the Department of Education for almost 8 years. During this time, I have experienced how crucial it is to introduce children to gardening; even at the youngest of ages; preschool and babies. My own daughter who will be two soon, has and is greatly benefiting from learning to garden. My husband and I not only have a garden in our home; but we have helped various schools to create their gardens.

It has been proven time and time again; even through "HSA" scores that children learn best from hands on experiences. As a speech therapist, I have seen this myself; children whose language was undeveloped, working in a school garden and learning vocabulary and how to create sentences that their caregivers had only hoped they would learn. School gardens, not only help to promote and develop, literacy, math, language, understanding of science; history, art and culture; but they help to develop a child's self esteem and an awareness and use of a healthy diet. These skills, they can share with their families and communities as well. Please take the time to look, in the face of a child, who is learning to garden and see all the beauty that they are learning and the important skills that will last them a life time. Please support Hawaii Bill 1988. Thank you.

Jeanmarie Smith

Speech /language Pathologist

I strongly urge the Hawaii State Legislature to pass HB 1988; it is extremely important to have this position funded so that our keikis will be equipped to lead healthy lives. Mahalo.

**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 9:26 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** anmatsuz@ksbe.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Marie Matsuzaki	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: In my twenty years as a classroom educator and education program manager in Hawaii, I've been most impressed by the impacts the school garden movement has had on teachers, classrooms of students, entire schools, and school communities in critical ways. The statewide school garden coordinator position proposed in HB 1988 has the potential to provide important support and communication on the education side, as well as coordination and access on the food sourcing side. In the work I do for Kamehameha Schools as the program manager for the Na Mamo Mahiai - Next Generation Farmers Initiative, I have the responsibility to seek out and support agriculture education programs in support of local food systems and local food production. In collaboration with UH CTAHR, UHWO, Kohala Center, MAO Farms and the Ulupono Initiative, we focus on high school to adult learner-participants, and the school garden initiative is such an important pre-K to 12 component impacting students' academic engagement, improved health, as well as invigorating local food producers/business across the state. I strongly recommend the Legislature pass and fund this house bill. Thank you.

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:05 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mauiwit@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:43 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jsimpliciano@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james simpliciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:17 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** leejane052@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jane lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB 1988. The local economy would benefit from the school procurement from local farms and Hawaii would have a much higher chance of returning to food sovereignty. The farm to school program and coordinator position are crucial pieces of the infrastructure that will benefit the future generation in terms of program sustainability and growth.

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:00 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jdancer@kula.us  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:30 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kalikoamona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Please support this important program for Hawaii's youth, our local food system, and our environment.

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**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 2:07 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** lynhowe1946@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The School garden program is making a huge difference in the state and it needs as much support as possible. It is especially important to hire a state coordinator as this programs grows and prospers.

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**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 8:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mckent55@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mary c kent	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Having been involved with school gardens on Hawaii island for two years, I see how school gardens are used to promote good health and well being in students. A farm to school program would add to this health benefit and increase local production, and jobs by increasing a market for local food products. Please, step up to the challenge: take a leadership role by passing this bill.

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ctenophadiles@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Net	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Farm to school programs are essential in facilitating learning progress in our youth. Core aspects of education are inherently tied in growing our own food. This makes in classroom subjects more relate-able to students due to the tactile experience they get from it. Gives them a great sense of stewardship that they will carry to their adult life wherein ensuring future generations.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:32 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** robtarver1953@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Tarver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:33 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** 3333sd@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM\*

**HB1988**

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Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sue Donaldson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:56 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tsmithlg@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

**HB1988**

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Testimony for AGR on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tim Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to express my support for the Hawaii school to farm program. I personally observed and participated in the program on two separate occasions. I walked away thoroughly impressed by the team building exercises, farming basics, cooking and nutritional lessons that were taught to the children. The kids were eager, enthusiastic participants and the entire experience was a valuable educational experience. This program provides a stepping stone towards creative thinking on ways to make Hawaii more self-sufficient through farming as well as introducing the young generation to healthy, nutritional home grown foods that many of them experienced for the very first time. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions. Tim Smith

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