

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 EDUCATION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1988
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Takumi and Members of the Committee,

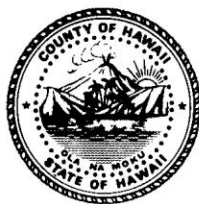
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1988. This bill would establish a Hawaii farm to school program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) that would improve access to nutritious foods in public educational institutions and develop the agricultural workforce for the benefit 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.



Margaret Wille
Council Member
District 9 - North and South Kohala



Phone No. Hilo: (808) 961-8027
Phone No. Waimea: (808) 887-2043
Fax No.: (808) 887-2072
E-Mail: mwille@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Holomua Center
64-1067 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite C-5
Waimea, Hawai'i 96743

West Hawai'i Civic Center Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 96740

House Committee on Education
Wednesday, 02-05-14 2:00PM
Conference room 309

SUPPORT for HB1988 Relating to Agriculture

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Honorable Members,

HB1988 funds a strategic planning position for Farm to School and School Gardens in the State Department of Agriculture. This position is essential for creating P-20 agricultural education pathways for our keiki and increasing local procurement of foods for our public school lunch and snack programs. Mahalo for passing HB 1988.

Sincerely,

/s/

Margaret Wille
Council Member – District 9

MW/ds

February 4, 2014
Page 2 of 2



Wednesday, February 5, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1988 – Relating to Agriculture

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

I am also the co-founder of a program called, “Grow Hawaii,” a project of HAIS in partnership with the Hawaii State Departments of Education and Agriculture, and the Ulupono Initiative.

HAIS is in support of HB 1988 a bill for an act that establishes a Hawaii Farm to School Program and appropriates monies to fund a full-time Farm to School Program Coordinator.

Grow Hawaii has successfully utilized a variety of strategies to significantly enrich the educational dialogue in all private and public schools statewide concerning the urgency for growing food in the islands to create a more sustainable way of life. I have witnessed, firsthand, the success of such a program and the difference it has made in the lives of all involved.

We are proud that today, approximately 43% of all schools in the state have educational gardens on campus, and that these schools are supported by one of the most collaborative statewide networks of school garden programs in the country. Regardless of their size, the gardens provide a rich context for the integration of core subjects, electives and service clubs. We have also witnessed school food service directors and staff committing to providing fresh, healthy lunches, and demonstrating a willingness to try new recipes and ideas.

The passage of this bill would help to ensure that our students are provided with rich educational opportunities and a heightened sense of social awareness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of 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

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: 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: February 5, 2014 @ 2:00 p.m. Room 309

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno 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.

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.

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

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

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

Nourishing Hawai'i's Learning Communities since 2008

and School Garden Hui



Kaua'i

Colleen Carroll
Nature Talks

Keone Kealoha
Malama Kaua'i

Tiana Kamen
Farm to Keiki Pre-School Network

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Hoa Āina O Makaha

Terri Langley
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Jessica Higgins
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Nancy Redfeather
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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

House Committee on Education

February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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.

The creation of this program and coordinator position directly and simultaneously addresses our collective desire to increase our state's food security and self-sufficiency, grow future farmers, increase academic achievement, and improve the health of children and communities statewide.

We envision the farm to school program and coordinator position focusing on:

- 1) Working with farmers, distributors, institutions (especially schools), and the Hawai'i Department of Education School Food Services, to align supply, demand, and distribution of locally grown foods;
- 2) Establishing baseline data for the amount of locally grown foods procured and tracking progress toward established goals for the state; and
- 3) Co-convening a broad coalition in support of P-20 (preschool through post secondary) agricultural education for Hawai'i.

The purpose of the agricultural education component, including support for school gardens and high school agriculture programs, is both to rebuild agricultural education pathways for the creation of new farmers in our state and to ensure that students will eat the fresh locally grown foods served to them through increased local procurement. 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" (see "Evaluation of the School Lunch Initiative" 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 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.

The broad scope of positive change that can be realized through a statewide farm to school program involves many components and a coordinated inter-agency effort. The HFSSGH continues to establish connections and has recognized an important next step in the formal involvement of the Department of Agriculture, which is best suited to connect farms with schools and other institutions in order to increase procurement of locally grown foods, and has a clear interest and responsibility to play a leading role in agricultural education at the state level.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1988.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lydi Morgan Bernal". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Lydi Morgan Bernal
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

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**

KEY CONTACTS

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)
srauzon@berkeley.edu

Chez Panisse Foundation

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

Center for Ecoliteracy

Lisa Bennett, communications director
510.845.4595 (o) 415.439.3511 (c)
lisa@ecoliteracy.org

Berkeley Unified School District

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

www.ecoliteracy.org

www.school lunchinitiative.org

TESTIMONY Education Committee February 5, 2014, 2:00 PM

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha,

NatureTalks, Hawaii-based Environmental Education Company strongly supports HB1988, which will establish a Farm to School Program and Coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

As Director of NatureTalks I have worked with school gardens here on Kauai as well as across the state of Hawaii for over 20 years. The school garden is one component of an outdoor education program, which works hand in hand with the Farm to School and healthy lunch initiatives. School Gardens and Farm to School Programs provide so many opportunities for integrating curricula, health and nutrition education from STEM to physical activity and culinary arts.

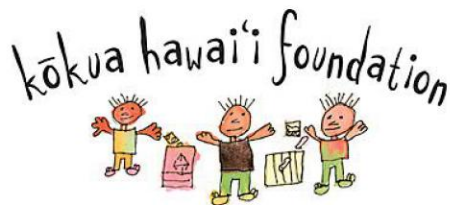
Support of Farm to School legislation is growing across the nation and by passing HB1988 Hawaii will join 20 states that passed farm to school-related legislation in 2012 and 2013, reported in the [National Farm to School Network](#) (NFSN) survey.

Hawaii has a history of leadership in agriculture and supporting the increase of local foods to our schools can only have positive ramifications for our school communities, keiki, farmers and local agriculture movements and economy.

Please support HB1988.

Sincerely,

Colleen Carroll, Ed.D.
Director, NatureTalks,
Kauai Representative
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui



TESTIMONY
House Committee on Education
February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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.

The Kōkua 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 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
Hale'iwa, O'ahu

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, help to establish life-long healthy habits for students and have shown to improve academic achievement by engaging students in cross-curricular hands-on learning.

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

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

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



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

February 5, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1988
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 309
2:00 PM

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator position.

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 has also done some work in this area within the past year. 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. 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 that partners with the Department of Education Procurement Office 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 on these markets.

Students and parents want fresh local products. The demand exists. HFB respectfully requests funding be provided to Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to amend their procurement processes to work better for local farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:06 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kendra@hais.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendra Ozaki	H AIS: Grow Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Please support this Bill, I have been working for the last 3 years on direct farm to school procurements, I have 1 school buying eggs directly from Peterson Upland Farms and produce from Ho Farms. Schools want fesh local produce and products.

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.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 5:54 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: ptowers@panna.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Towers	PAN North America	Support	No

Comments: By supporting this bill, Hawaii is establishing a firm commitment to island family farmers, to children who eat nutritious foods, and to supporting vibrant local economies.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 6:23 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: thegillfamily4@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Attachments: Farm to School Garden Coordinator.pages

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Gill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a volunteer school garden teacher at Hanalei Elementary School on Kauai for the past 7 years, I can testify to the amazing difference school gardens and farm to school programs can make in the lives of our keiki. They eat healthier, understand much better where their food comes from and why it's so important to have farmers here in Hawaii, and some have actually started growing food for themselves! We talk so much about the epidemic of obesity in the States and the high cost of health care, but put so little towards relatively inexpensive, concrete measures that we know successfully address both of these issues. This is one of those measures. As a teacher, I know how important it is to coordinate our efforts. I sometimes felt like I was reinventing the wheel in trying to come up with an effective curriculum and learn about how the state could both guide and support our efforts. We tried unsuccessfully for years to set up the salad bar at lunch that the students themselves had begged for. It was so frustrating to find that one government program strongly supported this move while others made it so difficult. We almost gave up out of frustration with this many times. It would have made the salad bar we now offer once a month a reality much sooner if the state had someone coordinating these issues. Please vote to appropriate funds for this very important position!

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.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:27 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sustainablesakala@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Representatives, I am writing in support of HB 1988. HB 1988 would create a strategic planning position for Farm to School and School Gardens in the Department of Agriculture. Creating a position within government is essential to creating a pathway that honors the shared interests of the state agencies: HDOH, HDOE, HDOA, and DLIR and helps to create agricultural education pathways PreK-20 as well as positive steps toward eventually increasing local procurement of foods for school lunch and snack programs. This is vitally important for the health of our school children as well as our state wide farmers. Thank you for hearing this bill and considering support for HB1988. Respectfully Submitted, Steve Sakala Vice President Kona Chapter Hawaii Farmers Union United Vice Chair State Legislative Committee

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 7:12 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Galloway, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is essential that we support this bill!

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 9:47 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: bennyjduke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Duke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am a teacher at West Hawaii Explorations Academy PCS and I work with many students on gardening and agriculture projects. It would really support my work and the work of many other teachers and students if this bill was supported. Mahalo, Benjamin Duke

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 10:43 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: david92jackson@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:04 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: ggzfranchini@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Franchini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 9:56 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: tasia@maoorganicfarms.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tasia yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 7:15 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sklsmith@ucla.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:54 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: localdelight@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Chivers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:16 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: anmatsuz@ksbe.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Matsuzaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A statewide Farm-to-School coordinator proposed in this bill is essential to the long-term institutionalization of a research- supported, effective learning environment in our schools, as well as a practical solution to the looming nutritional and health crisis in the current generation of school children—the first generation whose life expectancy is projected to be shorter than their parents due to environmental and nutritional health factors. This bill honors the work and advances the cause of hundreds of students, teachers and communities of school garden/nutrition/education advocates. Hopefully, all of the students in Hawaii’s school system will be productive, functioning and voting members of their communities someday. By supporting school gardens, you are adding to their chances that they will be. As a former secondary teacher in the DOE system for almost ten years, I know firsthand the day-to-day, nutritional options and physical demands on both students and teachers, and I know that for MANY students the school lunch and snack options--while calorie-wise may be sufficient--are nutritionally lacking. School food can be the primary source of a student's calories and nutrition during the day--nutrition essential for brain development and function. This lack of nutrition--added to the excessive technology and social media behaviors and sleep deficiencies facing children as young as six and seven years old-- is a Sisyphean (...the Greek guy forever rolling a rock up the hill only for it to roll back down as he nears the top) obstacle to learning that no teacher or school system can hope to overcome in isolation. The network of community supporters and business people, school administrators, cafeteria staff, parents, teachers that make gardens live and thrive in their school communities not only provides nutrition in schools, but cultivates student interest in their own health and nutrition, fresh vegetables and fruits; encourages reflective learning behaviors; and promotes contextual and integrated learning of science, civic engagement, history, language arts, math in an outdoor classroom setting (365 days a year IN HAWAII!). Please pass and fund this bill.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:21 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: natalie@kokuahawaiifoundation.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie McKinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:40 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: hunakai5@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:38 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: laura@lauramargulies.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Margulies	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill wholeheartedly. It is essential to the wellbeing of our keiki as well as for the 'Aina that a position be created to oversee the farm to school initiative.

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:23 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: viajenryan@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii DOA has an opportunity to support ag education in schools and develop a market for local ag products. Farm to school could ensure food sustainability and agriculture in Hawaii

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:55 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kalikoamona@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:11 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: janwiz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Wizinowich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:28 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: truly.joannies@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Thank you

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:23 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Carl Campagna and I am a local farmer-mentor from The Littlest Co-Op and Kamaka Green. I support the passage this Bill.

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Aloha mai kākou,

Feb. 4, 2014 8:44 am

My name is Natalie “Hiwahiwa” Joyce-Maeda. I have been a Garden Teacher/Coordinator in several Kaua’i Schools in the last 5 years. One school is a K-12 Charter School under the BOE. Another school is a pre-school under a non-profit umbrella. The third school is a very large elementary (K-5) school under the DOE.

This writing is addressed to the Education Committee on February, 5 2014 at the meeting convening in Room 309 at 2:00 pm in O’ahu, in regards to HB 1988.

Establishing the Hawaii Farm to School Program and Farm to School Coordinator position through HB 1988 is a very necessary and timely action for the education and health of our students and our schools. Having done Garden Teaching/Coordinating work for the last 5 years with a broad range of grade levels and a variety of schools, I testify to the necessity of this Bill. A Statewide Coordinator position is vital to support a meaningfully strong Alliance between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. And an official Alliance is very much needed to strongly support our schools, our State, Teachers and our students.

Yes, the students learn biology, environmental education, mathematics, history, technology and many other subjects. They learn them with specific subject focus and they learn them “across subject fields”- in a multi-disciplinary approach. Project based learning has always had a base in the sciences, thus the Science Fair. The gardens and the greenhouses *are* the educational laboratories. Place based education can be challenging to orchestrate but as equally as rewarding. Place based education is a “natural” in a school garden and so important here in Hawai’i. Problem based learning has a strong foundation in medicine/health but can be well applied to environmental education. Through Problem based learning the students can apply themselves to today’s current environmental issues, such as Food Safety, Energy use-“Plate Miles”, Hydroponics, Aquaculture, Solar, Weather changes, recycling etc. These are some of the topics under multi-disciplinary subjects that are generated in the Garden Teacher/Coordinator work that I do in schools here on Kaua’i. This is not theoretical, this has or is being done. And this work is not just being done by myself but by many other people. Why? Because this level of engagement and study is student generated. They ask for it!

I very strongly support HB 1988. I have seen that having educational gardens in schools produces learning results in individual students and in the entire school community. The GLOs and the Standards are again, “natural” applications within the context of these living laboratories- school gardens.

Here is a link to a 10 minute video segment produced under the DOE Kaua’i: “Shining Stars” Program. Please go to the 10 minute and 30 sec mark (approx.). The Wilcox Elementary School Garden Program segment will play (10 minute length). This segment is a good representation of Teachers, Principals, Students, Coordinator, Standards and the enthusiasm for Agricultural Education in schools. Mahalo!

<http://vimeo.com/channels/kauaishiningstars>

Natalie “Hiwahiwa” Joyce-Maeda

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:39 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments:

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I support [HB1988](#) since it creates a Farm to School program and coordinator position in the state Department of Agriculture, which is essential for statewide progress toward: 1) Establishing pathways for agricultural education from preschool through college (PreK-20), and 2) Increasing procurement of locally grown foods for school meal and snack programs. This is important for Hawaii's future for creating a more long term sustainable market for healthy, locally grown foods. This is important to supporting children's long term growth and ability to nurture their own health.

Signed,

Susan Hammer

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:15 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: foodsovereigntynow@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Representatives for addressing this issue. As a mother who cares about the health of all children, I support having local food in schools. We have such delicious produce here in Hawaii, it does not make sense that our children should eat canned peaches and pears from the mainland. I believe what is grown locally has better nutrition and better for our children's health. This program would also benefit local agriculture. It is a win win situation for both farmers and our keiki.

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Testimony in Support of HB1988: Establishing Farm to School Coordinator

Dear Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of HB1988 as it complements HB1662, which I also support. Establishing a Farm to School Coordinator position will definitely be a full time position for the entire state of Hawaii, as there are over 250 public state schools. This position will help to ensure that our state carries out its intent of bringing local food to our communities, through such programs as the public school system, as well as expanding the agriculture education of our keiki in grades PreK-college. This commitment by the state to source local agriculture for a large market will help to attract more farmers, thereby increasing our percentage of locally grown food. The coordination of these efforts will be complex and requires the backing by the state to fund such a position.

I strongly urge you to pass HB1988.

Sincerely,

Lea Minton, Certified Nurse Midwife

District 23 constituent and voter

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1988. My Master's thesis focused on Farm to School Programs, both in Hawaii and nationwide. I researched the costs and benefits and found amazing improvements in students' academics and behavior resulting from having a Farm to School program in schools.

I have also worked extensively in this field and will say with full-hearted enthusiasm that students absolutely love learning about their connection with food and having time in a garden. Farm to School Programs influence students' academics by providing students with a real life living laboratory in which to learn. Time outside, in a garden/forest/nature, positively influences students' behavior by reconnecting with natural rhythms, releasing energy, and feeling grounded, besides the health benefits of eating fresh healthy food.

I am in full support of HB1988. Please pass this bill to help Hawaii coordinate and fund this growing movement.

Mahalo nui,

Cherub Silverstein

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: akmeheula@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Meheula-Naihe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 4:41 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jtrujill@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: aloha members of the committee, the issue of providing hawaii schools with both nutritional and educational offerings is of great importance to our state. local food production is identified as a critical component for a sustainable hawaii. the future of food is being debated in living rooms & court rooms, at the dinner table and the committee table. having a plan for the future of food is essential for our state. we have to look at the systems in place and identify strategic steps to take to help us meet the needs of our community. having a statewide school to farm coordinator is a strategic step in this process of developing sustainable food production for our future. the statewide coordinator will need to move through the systems and departments of the state and county to facilitate the development of the school to farm program. support for this program will need to come from DBED HDOA HDOE sectors along with UH CTAHR, Farmers Union & Farm Beureaus and independant food producers. the WHOLE food production system needs to be analyzed and actions taken to support areas of weakness and encourage duplication of successful models that engage ALL levels of participation in bringing nutritional and educational morsels to the table. lets look at additional elements that will bring a farm to schoo l/school to farm program into production. let's create a plan that engages our children, our families and our schools in partnership w/higher educational and or career opportunities. please further this discussion by passing HB 1988 and consider having a supporting plan that coordinates with each county and their DOE area complex to facilitate a systemic approach to meeting the needs of our community regarding local nutritional food being grown and served on campus and in our community. we can grow our future if we plan accordingly. mahalo for considering this testimony in favor of creating a statewide program for farm to school/school to farm opportunities. with respect and aloha, james g trujillo Kapaa, HI 96746

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ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 3:00 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lumber@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM

HB1988

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janis L Boyer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As an assistant to the volunteer school garden teacher at Hanalei Elementary School on Kaua'i, I've been very impressed with the knowledge and understanding the keikis are gaining about the quality of their food, from where it comes and how they can grow their own. A state coordinator could help us implement our garden programs at the community level.

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TESTIMONY
SUPPORT
February 05, 2014

House Committee on Agriculture

January 27, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

HB1988: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and 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 the interest to start school gardens and purchase and serve locally grown food for students grow exponentially over the past few 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 these programs, but need outside support to make these programs successful.

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. The statewide school garden and farm to school network needs an individual who can focus on cross departmental issues and create opportunities that all of Hawai'i'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: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:09 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: siroisalex@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1988 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM



HB1988

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex sirois	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of HB1988.

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.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nomi Carmona	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Legislative Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 05, 2014 at 2:00 pm

By
Maria Gallo
Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1988 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide my comments in support HB 1988, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

I am in strong support of the first purpose of this program, 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.

However, I do not believe that the second responsibility stated in HB 1988 of "coordinating agricultural education in schools throughout the state from preschool through high school and at the university level" is within the purview of the Department of Agriculture or the farm-to-school coordinator of this proposed program. Thus, I respectfully request deletion of this second program responsibility from HB 1988.

The Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i are charged with providing education to Hawai'i's citizens, under the general guidelines and systematic review of national accrediting bodies. It would not be productive for other state agencies to be tasked with coordinating these education programs, although we welcome interagency partnerships to support our agriculture education programs, which are often severely under-funded.

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.