

SCR6

Testimony

AGL/EDU
March 24, 2014
Room 414
1:30 pm

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OFFICE OF PLANNING, HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE TO SALAD BARS AT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014
1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 414

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OFFICE OF PLANNING, HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE TO SALAD BARS AT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

Chairpersons Nishihara and Tokuda and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 6. This resolution would request the Department of Education (DOE) to partner with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), Office of Planning, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and other agricultural stakeholders to develop a farm-to-school program to provide locally grown produce to salad bars at all public schools in the State. The HDOA supports the intent of this resolution.

The HDOA believes in the potential of a farm to school program that can 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, and HDOA would look forward to working with the DOE and other departments and stakeholders to further discuss and develop a viable farm-to-school program.

The HDOA suggests that the State Procurement Office (SPO) be added as another department the DOE would partner with in developing a farm-to-school program in order to find ways to improve the procurement processes to allow public educational institutions to purchase local fresh produce.

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





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March 24, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SCR 6

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OFFICE OF PLANNING, HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP A FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE TO SALAD BARS AT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

Room 414
1:30 AM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

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 SCR 6, which seeks to provide locally grown produce to salad bars at all Hawaii public schools.

While we understand SCR 6 seeks to provide only locally grown produce, HFB strongly supports increased use of all locally grown agricultural products, including 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 (DOA) has also done some work in this area in the past. 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, but 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.

Many farmers and ranchers are ready to understand the opportunity and identify crops and other products that can be grown and produced or these markets. Students and parents want fresh local products. The demand exists.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR6 on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:30:10 PM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: A Farm to School Program is more comprehensive than a salad bar, however, a salad bar could be part of a Farm to School Program. A Farm to School Program needs a position in DOA and DOE who work together to create a strategy and plan for a statewide program. Farm to School means increased buying of locally procured foods for school and institution food programs and the educational component School Learning Gardens. Other educational components could be farm visits, seed to table programs, etc.

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Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:15:57 PM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:30:32 PM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wynnie Hee	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: although it's a wonderful idea, already we have had school gardens (as well as school grounds newly replanted) vandalized. I can just imagine smart aleck delinquents/idiots peeing on the veggies. Even regular farms get their crops vandalized or stolen. Heartbreaking. Well, maybe if there were some kind of security fence built to protect the crops, it might work.

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Cc: niyati333@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR6 on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:29:49 PM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Niyati Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I like my lettuce produced organically by small children. How about you? I like it without GMO's or harsh chemical fertilizer. Here on the Big Island we like it organic. Please do what you can to allow school gardens to continue to produce food for the school lunch program. Our keiki will do better with nutritious food on their plates at lunch.

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Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:53:12 PM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:23:02 AM

SCR6

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Mar 24, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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