

SCR131/SR96

Measure Title: DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

Report Title: Farm to School Month; October

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/WLA

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/28/2016

Time: 12:45 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education Senate Water,
Land, and Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 131 DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Resolution:

Department's Position:

The department is in support of designating October as Farm to School month. It provides an opportunity to honor the work done connecting students to the food and place in which they live, and gives strength to the continued farm to school partnerships between schools, state agencies, organizations and communities.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
AND WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

March 28, 2016
12:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

**SCR131/SR96
DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL
MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL
INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS**

Chairpersons Kidani and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR131/SR96 that designates the month of October of each year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii's schools. The Department strongly supports this measure.

The Department believes in the importance of providing Hawaii's youth with the education and exposure to become agriculturally literate. Investing in connections between locally-grown healthy food choices and the farms from which our food is grown is vital for students to appreciate the importance of agriculture within their own lives. Experiences across the nation and within our own State have shown that Farm-to-School initiatives may also result in increased student health and nutrition.

The Department is implementing a statewide Farm-to-School Program pursuant to Act 218 (SLH 2015), and sees designating October as a Farm-to-School Month as an opportunity to highlight these efforts and increase participation in the State's growing Farm-to-School initiatives. October has been designated as "National Farm to School Month" by Congress, which lends national support for Farm-to-School initiatives at the



same time. Furthermore, October is also Hawaii's Children and Youth Month, (HRS § 8-11). By mirroring this national month designation and tying-in with Hawaii's Child and Youth Month, Hawaii can leverage timely support of these initiatives while expressing its support of greater student health and increased agricultural literacy as a valuable benefit to our children and youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
and
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, March 28, 2016 at 12:45 p.m.
By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Maria Gallo, Dean
And
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 131/SR 96 DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS
"FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND
SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S
SCHOOLS

Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 131/SR 96, which designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

This positive action to promote public awareness of the Farm to School effort is intended to connect schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals; improving nutrition and lowering childhood obesity; providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities; and supporting our local farmers. These objectives coincide with those of the agriculture, health and nutrition programs developed and implemented by College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for the benefit of the agricultural community and the children of Hawai'i and we are pleased to lend our support to this initiative.

These objectives are also very much in line with agricultural education efforts at the Hilo and West Hawai'i campuses of the University of Hawai'i, Maui College, and the Community College campuses.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our support for SCR 131/SR 96, and for designation of October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 28, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATECOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATECOMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 131/SR 96

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL
MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL
INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS

Room 229
12:45 PM

Chair Kidani, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

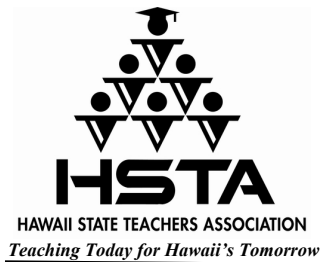
I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau is in strong support of designating October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii"

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. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

HFB supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
AmAmy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION and THE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

RE: SCR 131/ SR96 - DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH
YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND
SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

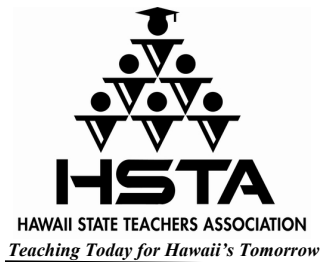
Chair Kidani, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SCR131/ SR96**, designating the month of October each year as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii’s schools.

As HSTA has stated previously, we need to restore the balance in our public educational system in Hawaii.

Farm to school programs support not only a common sense approach to child nutrition that empowers children and their families to make informed food choices, but they also strengthen the local economy and contribute to vibrant communities. Hawaii's Career and Technical Education programs also need to be expanded to provide greater opportunities to prepare young people to design their own futures. Designating the month of October of each year as “Farm to School Month” will help reconnect our students not only to where their food comes from, but also to a much needed focus on sustainability, and the jobs needed in the industry to support its expansion. Having a Farm to School Month will also encourage more lessons and units designed by teachers that not only focus on growing gardens, but also on how farming (both agriculture and ranching) is vital to our sustainability in Hawaii.

According to the report, “Growing School Learning Gardens: A Summary of the 2012 Statewide School Garden Survey”, there are 168 school gardens involving 21, 577 students and 830 teachers on 30 acres of land. However, according to the Hawaii



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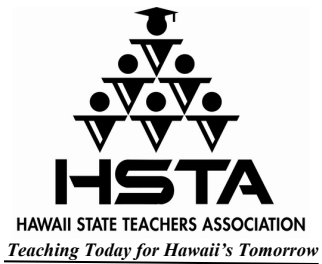
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

Agriculture Skill Panel Report from the Workforce Development Council, the average age of Hawaii's commercial farmers is over 60 years old. By supporting and expanding the Farm to School Program, teachers may also promote career paths for students by incorporating how the farming workforce needs have changed over time. There are CTE career paths in Agricultural Systems Technology, Animal Science, Meat Science, Food Production and Processing Systems, Natural Resource Systems, and Plant Systems. Students can become a Bio-Resource Technician, Environmental Resource Technician, Hydrology Technician, Agroforester, Native and Tropical Forest Ecosystem Technician, Fish and Wildlife Technician, Soil Technician, Ag-Aqua Technician, Field Technician, Ag Technician, Livestock Technician, Beekeeper, Environmental Scientist, Hydrology Engineer, Hydrologist, Silviculturist, Ethnobotanist, Soil Scientist, Ag-Aqua Engineer, Agricultural Extension Agent, Agricultural Economist, Agricultural Engineer, Entomologist, Botanist, Arboriculturist, Floriculturist, Livestock Extension Agent, Veterinarian, Apiarist, and many others.

Despite this expanding career path, interest in agriculture, ranching, and related fields has decreased in our youth and this is worrisome to the industry in Hawaii, and to the economy and self-sustainability of our state. It is also a concern with educators and other members of our communities.

Our students need to understand not only the importance of ideas such as Farm to School, but we need to encourage their curiosity and later interests in careers where they can become leaders in the industry who could help develop new technology and come up with innovative ideas that will be critical components to the growth and expansion of the farming industries in Hawaii, especially in the areas of sustainability. The farming industries also need workers in business, marketing, and management to refine and streamline production and distribution, along with workers to guide the industry in using sustainable practices, Organic farming, Soil building, Natural Farming, ranching, and even with the production of locally produced feed using locally grown crops to create organic feed for cattle, to name a few.

Passage of this resolution would encourage teachers and schools to incorporate farming (agricultural and ranching) career paths into their curriculum using school



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gardens and in some areas, maybe even small livestock such as chickens (where permitted), along with farm to table programs with their students, while also enriching the food served in their cafeterias.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world, including the changes in farming, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this resolution.



TESTIMONY

Senate Committees on Education and Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, March 28, 2016, 12:45 p.m.

SCR131 & SR96: RELATING TO OCTOBER AS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

The National Farm to School Network strongly supports SCR131 and SR96, which designate the month of October of each year as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii’s schools.

Farm to school/early care and education is the practice of sourcing local food for K-12 schools and early care and education settings and providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, such as school gardens, farm field trips, and cooking lessons. Farm to school improves the health of children and communities while supporting local and regional farmers (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), founded in 2007, seeks to create strong and just local food systems that ensure the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities. NFSN provides vision, leadership and support to connect and strengthen the farm to school movement, which includes tens-of-thousands of schools and early care settings in all 50 states and DC.

The “State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2014,” an annual legislative report published by the Vermont Law School and NFSN, highlights the growing commitment from US states and the District of Columbia to advance policies that promote farm to school. In 2014 alone, twelve states enacted resolutions or proclamations supporting farm to school programming through a designated week or month.

Farm to school month designations are key to raising community awareness and support for farm to school activities. In 2010, Congress passed a similar resolution designating every October as National Farm to School Month as they recognized the growing demand for farm to school activities that provide health, economic, agriculture, and education benefits. NFSN strongly supports local and state initiatives that create their own farm to school month designations because at its core, farm to school activities celebrate communities for their unique agricultural offerings and school systems.

In 2015, Hawaii passed Act 218 to create a strong, coordinated farm to school effort across the state. SCR131 and SR96 build on that work to ensure all keiki have access to fresh local food, school gardens, and nutrition education.

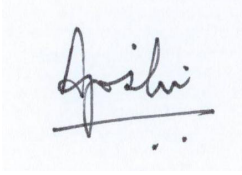
We welcome any questions you may have, and we thank you for your efforts to advance farm to school.

Sincerely,



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK
A PROJECT OF TIDES CENTER

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER



Anupama Joshi
Executive Director & Co-Founder
National Farm to School Network



Erin McGuire
Policy Director
National Farm to School Network

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR131 on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:29:05 PM

SCR131

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for EDU/WLA on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network and FoodCorps Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: Since the 2015 Legislative Session, huge positive steps have occurred that are moving the Hawai'i Farm to School Program forward. Mahalo to the Department of Agriculture and Farm to School Coordinator Robyn Pfahl for your initiatives and support to increase local procurement of Hawaii grown and produced foods for institutional purchasing and support for School Gardens and School Farms in 165 schools in the state. Farm to School Month each October, coincides with National Farm to School Month, and will provide an ongoing yearly platform to engage the community with these new ideas and feature the bright spots that are happening in school food and school garden education all across the state. Mahalo to Governor Ige and Lt. Governor Tsutsui for their ongoing support to develop this new framework for Farm to School.

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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kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR131
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDU/WLA
March 28, 2016, 12:45 PM

Aloha,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY** supports SCR131, designating the month of October each year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawai'i's schools.

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our programs include 'ĀINA In Schools, 3R's School Recycling, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grants, and Plastic Free Hawai'i.

'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes a standards-based nutrition, garden, and compost curriculum that empowers children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. 'ĀINA In Schools also promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demonstrations in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities for families and community members. We work directly with 16 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 250 educators from over 100 schools from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

Over the last nine years, we have made great strides in the realm of school gardens and nutrition education, including the establishment of a Farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator in the Hawai'i State Department of Agriculture in 2015. Establishment of a state-level Farm to School Program has brought a level of expertise and commitment around local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into agencies statewide and has further bolstered the reach and impact of the garden and nutrition educational programs that have been implemented by non-profit organizations across the state.

Designating the month of October of each year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i is a great opportunity to leverage the National Farm to School designation of October with state-level farm to school programs, including seeing increases in the amount of locally grown food served in schools and positive health, behavioral, and economic impacts of their programs. Please see the attached document from the National Farm to School Network, "The Benefits of Farm to School" for specific examples and statistics of how farm to school programs benefit students, schools, and local economies.

We strongly urge you to vote in support of SCR131!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kini Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

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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.





THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

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Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following:

Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test.

Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

School gardens: Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school activities provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities and food producers. This document outlines those cross-sectoral benefits and cites the the research behind them. Farm to school is growing our future leaders, consumers, producers and community members.

Cross-sectoral benefits of farm to school



PUBLIC HEALTH

Farm to school activities provide healthy food options and nutrition and food-based education to influence healthy eating behaviors and healthy lifestyles in children. Through the use of school and community gardens, farm to school can contribute to healthy neighborhoods where communities have a better understanding of how food is grown and how food affects their health and wellness.



ECONOMY

Farm to school provides economic development opportunities to producers (i.e. farmers, ranchers, fishers) and laborers, distributors, processors, cooks and foodservice staff, as well as others who support the local food system.



EDUCATION

Farm to school can support educational outcomes for students by increasing student access to healthy foods in schools and promoting educational activities that help children and families learn about and develop skills related to healthy eating. Farm to school curriculum and experiential activities are also a platform to teach core content areas such as science, math and language arts.



ENVIRONMENT

Farm to school activities can support environmentally sound, sustainable and socially just approaches to food production, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing. Farm to school activities may promote an ecological ethic among participants, develop infrastructure that supports healthy environments and promote agriculture and food distribution practices that mitigate climate change.



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and preschools.

Student Health and Achievement

Farm to school is a school-based strategy that focuses on creating a healthy school food environment.¹ Farm to school activities support children's development of healthy eating habits—such as preferences for and consumption of fruits and vegetables—while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.²⁻⁵ Key outcomes include:

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 eating behaviors, including choosing healthier options in the cafeteria; consuming more fruits and vegetables through farm to school meals and at home (+0.99 to +1.3 servings/day); consuming less unhealthy foods and sodas; reducing screen time; and increasing physical activity.⁶⁻³¹
- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods and seasonality (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,26,31-33}
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,30-33}
- Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings; provides children with an understanding of agriculture and the environment; and improves life skills, self-esteem, social skills and behavior.³⁴⁻³⁵

Food Service Costs, Revenue, Interest

- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), thus generating increased revenue through school meals programs.^{8-9,20-21,23-25,36}
- Improvements in food service operations, such as increased cafeteria offerings of fruits and vegetables; development of new seasonal recipes; and changes in cafeteria waste management policies.^{8-9,21,23-25,36,37}
- Improvement in food service staff motivation and morale; increase in knowledge and interest in local food preparation and seasonal recipes; and increase in interactions with teachers to strengthen classroom/cafeteria connections.^{7,22,38}

Benefits for Farmers

In general, purchases from local sources increase as farm to school programming matures, with potential local sourcing of up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.^{7-9,20,22-23,25,36-37,39}

- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales for individual farmers.^{7,9,20,22-23,36,39}
- Increase in market diversification; positive relationships with school districts, parents and community members; farmers contracted to plant crops for schools; opportunities to explore processing and preservation methods for institutional markets; establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.³⁶⁻³⁷



Community and Economy

- Increase in community awareness and interest about purchasing local foods and foods served in school cafeterias.^{7,22}
- Increase in economic activity. In one study, each dollar invested in farm to school stimulated an additional \$2.16 of local economic activity.⁴⁰
- Strengthened connections within the state's food economy.⁴⁰
- Improved household food security.⁴⁰
- Creation and maintenance of jobs; for every job created by school districts purchasing local foods, additional economic activity would create another 1.67 jobs.⁴⁰

Teachers






















- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum.^{7,20-22, 30}

Parents

- Increase in ability and interest in incorporating healthier foods in family diets and guiding children in early childhood and K-12 age groups to make healthier choices; positive changes in shopping patterns reflecting healthy and local foods.^{7,20,22,27,33}
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets in the area.³³
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.³³

Summary of Farm to School Benefits

The core elements of farm to school (local procurement, school gardens, food and farm related education) provide for unique crosssectoral outcomes and linkages in public health, community economic development, education and environmental quality.

Population	Benefits	Cross-sector Benefits
Students		
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings/ day	Public Health 
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health 
Food-system awareness	Increased knowledge regarding: gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health  Education  Environmental Quality 
Academic achievement	Overall improvement (K-12)	Education 
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem and social skills	Education 
Schools		
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Public Health  Economic Development 
Local Sourcing	Up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development  Environmental Quality 
Improved cafeteria operations	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables, new seasonal recipes, new waste management policies	Public Health 
Food service staff	Improved morale, increased knowledge	Education  Economic Development 
Teachers	Positive diet and lifestyle changes	Public Health 
Farmers		
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development 
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development 
Community		
Economy	\$2.16 economic activity generated for every \$1 spent	Economic Development 
Job creation	Each new farm to school job contributes to the creation of additional 1.67 jobs	Economic Development 
Families	Increased food security and positive diet changes	Public Health 

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Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR96 on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:09:05 PM

SR96

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for EDU/WLA on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Cc: dawn@pitreart.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR131 on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 6:17:38 PM

SCR131

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for EDU/WLA on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill I Volunteer as a AINA In Schools Team Coordinator through the Kokua foundation and additionally I am a Garden Club Lead. I have seen a direct result of children's eating habits change for the positive by being exposed to healthy foods which they can see a direct connection with food from the source. This bill promotes the full circle of garden to table and it is good for our community.
Mahalo, Dawn Poiani

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March 24, 2016

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

In Support of SCR131/SR96

Dear Members of the Committee on Education and the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture,

Please support SCR131/SR96 designating the month of October as “Farm to School Month” in Hawai’i. This designation will strengthen the growing farm to school movement in Hawai’i which actively seeks to improve the health and well being of Hawaii’s children through agriculture and school garden programs, and increased procurement of locally grown food for Hawai’i’s schools. Farm to School not only benefits our children, but also supports farmers through a healthy local food system. As an agriculture educator in Hawai’i, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of farm to school programs and activities on children’s education, food knowledge, food choices, and children’s health. By designating October as “Farm to School Month,” we can assure that this movement will continue to build and strengthen in Hawai’i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important resolution.

Mahalo,
Debbie Millikan
Sustainability Specialist

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR96 on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 6:29:46 AM

SR96

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for EDU/WLA on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR131 on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:50:10 PM

SCR131

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for EDU/WLA on Mar 28, 2016 12:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joli Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our future generations could greatly benefit from having a stronger connection with their local farmers. As a native Hawaiian, it concerns me that our keiki no longer connect to their aina. Building more awareness about where their food comes from could have far-reaching benefits to the health and empowerment of our people.

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND WATER, LAND, & AGRICULTURE

Monday, March 28, 2016

12:45 p.m. Room 229

TESTIMONY ON SR96

(EDU): Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and respected committee members,
(WLA): Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and respected committee members:

My name is Leah Keller. I am a senior at Mililani High School, currently enrolled in an AP Environmental Science class. I am testifying for the SR96 bill that would designate the month of October as a “Farm to School Month” to strengthen and support the Farm to School initiatives in Hawaii’s schools. I am testifying in favor of this bill.

The Farm to School program provides a way that kids can learn the importance of healthy eating through a sustainable approach. According to the *stateofobesity.org*, in Hawaii, 2011, about 11.5 percent of children ages ten through seventeen were obese. In 2013, the percentage climbed to 13.4 percent in high school students. The cause of obesity is partially due to school lunches. According to Mililani High School’s own school lunch menu, most of the meals include unhealthy protein such as chicken nuggets, hot dogs, turkey pastrami, chicken with gravy or fish nuggets. Lunch is also served with a mix up of rice, potato rounds, rolls, or oven fries. For fruits and vegetables, there might be an orange, applesauce, or mixed vegetables available. The salad bar option is offered at my school; however, there is not enough to accommodate all the kids. The healthy portions of the lunches are either unappealing to kids or unavailable. By focusing the month of October to be the “Farm to School” month, students can learn about the importance of healthy eating and carry on it’s ideas for the rest of the year. By involving kids in the growing process and teaching them about what they are putting into their bodies, students will be more willing to eating the fruits of their labor. By targeting kids, they will be able to carry on the ideas throughout their life and involve their current family and their future children.

Not only will this improve young people’s health, but it will also help the environment. Hawaii imports about ninety two percent of its food from the mainland or elsewhere. By doing this, Hawaii contributes much of the Earth’s pollution by constantly using oil to transport food via air and water travel. By having school gardens that can feed Hawaii’s kids for majority of the school year, the amount of nonrenewable energy that Hawaii uses can be dramatically reduced. School gardens can also create a sustainable approach to improving Hawaii’s battle with food sufficiency and security.

The Farm to School program should get its own highlight month to refocus the attention back on its wonderful goals. If one month of the year can be dedicated to the Farm to School mission, we will all see beneficial results for the younger generation and Hawaii’s environmental health.

Leah Keller
Mililani High School
lckeller009@gmail.com