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SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 15, 2017
8:40 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1341
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

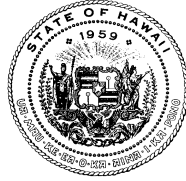
Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1341, which 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 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.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1341
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: 02/15/17

Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this bill. Farm to School
3 activities provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and food
4 producers. The DOH supports strengthening Farm to School programs statewide to provide
5 opportunities for students to receive nutrition education, improve access to healthy food options
6 in schools, and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables among youth. These activities
7 align with the Department's prevention strategy to strengthen healthy food systems, and increase
8 youth consumption of fruits and vegetables to establish life-long practices that will reduce the
9 risk for chronic diseases such as; obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some
10 cancers.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 8:40 a.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1341 – RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1341, 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 for the opportunity to express our support for HB 1341.



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February 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1341
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Room 312
8:40 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 1341, which designates the month of 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.

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.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. We believe that school farms serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology and various technologies including programming,

navigation and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of this program. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue the various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, and Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education 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.

This should be viewed as an investment in Hawaii's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM*

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:24 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lydibernal@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 15, 2017 08:40AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lydi Morgan Bernal	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for supporting Farm to School in Hawaii!

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Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

Coordinated through The Kohala Center



TESTIMONY
House Committee on Agriculture
February 15, 2017, 8:40 a.m.

Island Networks & Organizations

Farm to Keiki (Preschool)
FoodCorps Hawai'i
Grow Some Good
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network/The Kohala Center
'Iolani School
Ka Ohana O Na Pua
Kaua'i School Garden Network/Malama Kaua'i
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation (ĀINA In Schools)
Maui School Garden Network
Moloka'i School Garden Network/Sustainable Moloka'i
O'ahu Farm to School Network

State Agencies

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: Farm to School Program
Hawai'i Department of Education: Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs
Hawai'i Department of Education: School Food Services Branch
Hawai'i Department of Health: Healthy Hawai'i Initiative
UH CTAHR O'ahu Master Gardeners

HB1341: RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **supports HB1341.**

National Farm to School Month was designated by Congress in 2010 to demonstrate the growing importance of farm to school programs as a means to improve child nutrition, support local economies, and educate children about the origins of food.

The designation of October as Farm to School Month in Hawai'i is an important action by the Hawai'i State Legislature in recognition of the power of farm to school as a catalyst for positive change in our state. This designation provides a significant opportunity to raise awareness, interest, and participation in Hawai'i's growing farm to school and school garden movement among schools, families, communities, service provider organizations, businesses, and government entities.

Examples of activities that take place during Farm to School Month include:

- Nutrition education and garden-based learning activities;
- Healthy school fundraisers using locally grown foods;
- Taste tests, healthy snacks, and featured meal items using locally grown foods;
- Field trips to farms, farmers markets, food co-ops, and grocery stores;
- Cooking demonstrations and chef visits to classrooms;
- School and community-wide events focusing on health, agriculture, whole-child education, and vibrant local food systems.

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, active organizations, and representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health. Our mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill.

Aloha,

Lydi Morgan Bernal
Coordinator
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org