



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1341
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 02/23/17

Room Number: 325

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 JUDICIARY

**FEBRUARY 23, 2017
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

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

Chairperson Nishimoto 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.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.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 Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

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

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1341

House Committee on Judiciary

February 23, 2017, 2:00 PM

Aloha,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation STRONGLY supports HB1341, 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 19 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 381 educators from over 22 schools and organizations from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

Over the last ten 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.

We strongly urge you to vote in support of HB1341!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

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

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.



Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

Coordinated through The Kohala Center



TESTIMONY

House Committee on Judiciary
February 23, 2017, 2:00 p.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 Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: megan.pittsley@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua`i	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



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 23, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

Room 325
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, 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 is 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.

TESTIMONY
House Committee on Judiciary
February 23, 2017, 2pm

HB1341: RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

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 (which readies our children to be better learners), to support local economies, and to educate children about the origins of their food.

The designation of October as Farm to School Month is an important action by the Hawai'i State Legislature in recognition of the power of the school garden and farm to school movement as a catalyst for positive change in our state. The designation provides a tangible endorsement of the growing farm to school and school garden movement in our communities.

I am one of the founders of Māla'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School. We are a nonprofit working in partnership with Waimea Middle School on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Over 2500 WMS students have come to our garden for Ike Hawai'i, Science, and health/PE classes. Our students learn lessons in a hand-on environment, practicing culture, watching science come alive as it relates to the real world, and learning to make healthy choices for themselves, their families and our community. Currently 70% of our students are entitled to free and reduced lunch. We now prepare and serve a healthy snack for every student in every class that comes to our garden. This both feeds our students and gives them the example of healthy choices. We served over 2500 snacks last year. In the 12 years we have been at Waimea Middle School, Māla'ai has contributed over 2 million dollars of services to the students of Waimea Middle School.

In the time we have been doing our work, awareness of the value of this work, and the movement of people doing this work had grown dramatically.

The activities that take place during Farm to School Month in Hawai'i will promote this work. In addition, the designation of Farm to School Month by the Hawai'i Legislature will lend a new level of credibility to this vital work which benefits our keiki, our farmers, our 'āina, and our future in Hawai'i.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill.

Amanda Rieux

Garden Founder and Program Director
Mala'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School
amanda@malaai.org
www.malaai.org



TESTIMONY

House Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 23, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

HB1341: RELATING TO OCTOBER AS FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee,

The National Farm to School Network strongly supports HB1341, 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.

Farm to school and farm to 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 2016, states around the country enacted resolutions or proclamations supporting farm to school programming through a designated week or month as well as implemented programs and events to celebrate farm to school month, such as Apple Crunches.

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. HB1341 builds 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,

Helen Dombalis
Programs Director and Interim Policy Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: megan.pittsley@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Individual	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: meyer.karen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Meyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a mother of two school aged children and I think it is very important to teach them about where our food comes from. I wholeheartedly support designating October as Farm to school month. Please pass this bill so that our keiki can learn about food networks and supporting our local farmers.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:03 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: ashley.decoligny@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1341 on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1341

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 23, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov