

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 AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 15, 2017  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 882  
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 882, 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.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 03/15/2017  
**Time:** 08:30 AM  
**Location:** 312  
**Committee:** House Agriculture

**Department:** Education

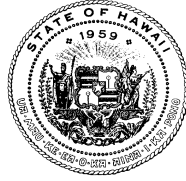
**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0882 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII.

**Purpose of Bill:** Designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii."

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education 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.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0882**  
**RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: 03/15/17

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 would like to strengthen 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 chronic disease prevention strategy to increase youth consumption  
8 of fruits and vegetables in order to reduce the risk for heart attack, diabetes, high blood pressure  
9 blood pressure, and some cancers.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 8:30 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

### SB 882 – 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 SB 882, 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 SB 882.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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March 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 882**  
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Room 312  
8:30 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.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 882**, which designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii."

HFB 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.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. This initiative is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to having well informed consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui

Coordinated through The Kohala Center



**TESTIMONY**  
House Committee on Agriculture  
March 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

## Island Networks & Organizations

Farm to Keiki (Preschool)

FoodCorps Hawai'i

Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Island School Garden  
Network/The Kohala Center

ʻIolani School

Ka Ohana O Na Pua

Kaua'i School Garden Network/  
Malama Kaua'i

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation  
(ʻĀINA 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 Master Gardeners

## **SB882: 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 SB882.**

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:** Monday, March 13, 2017 9:27 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB882 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM

**SB882**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: This Bill is critical in order to shine the light on our HDOA Farm to School Program that is now in it's Pilot Phase in the Kohala Complex and will be spreading by next Fall. That will be the perfect time to celebrate and tell the stories of our school garden programs, pilot cafeteria programs designed to bring healthier and local food into the menu cycles, and farm visits for our children. As we grow our agricultural economy, we need to share this story with our communities through this month long celebration. Mahalo!

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:** Monday, March 13, 2017 4:16 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB882 on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM\*

**SB882**

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 15, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

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House Of Representatives

Committee on Agriculture

Senate Bill No. 882

March 15, 2017

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify of SB 882, which would dedicate the month of October to be known and “Farm to School Month in Hawaii.” As a current resident of Oahu, I strongly support this measure. Providing this opportunity will create a unified relationship between children and the local farms on Oahu as well as make them aware of food choices. Being educated in school about where their food comes from and how it is produced will make future generations more mindful about what they eat and promote healthy choices. This can be especially hard to do in a school setting where many things come in packaged form, such as snacks from vending machines and processed foods in cafeterias. Providing this education on nutrition early on in life promotes healthy habits, which carry on into the future, which ultimately can improve the quality of life by reducing the risk for health problems. By supporting our youth and amending this bill, we will help connect them with the community and teach them the benefits of healthy eating habits. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Katie Fuschetti

(714) 788-0795

# kōkua hawai'i foundation



**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB882

Committee on Agriculture

March 15, 2017, 8:30 AM

Aloha,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY** supports SB882, 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 SB882!**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,  
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,  
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,  
Executive Director

[www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org](http://www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org)

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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.





**LATE**

**Re: SB882**

In support of bill "Designates the month of October as Farm to School Month in Hawai'i "

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you as President of the Hawai'i Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (HAND). We have over 300 members in the state of Hawai'i including Guam and Saipan. The HAND is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Our members are the trusted and credible source of food and nutrition information.

HAND supports SB882 which would designate October as Farm to School Month in Hawai'i. Creating awareness of Farm to School initiatives will create a greater awareness of our food systems, and increase interest in consuming more fruits and vegetables.

Most sincerely yours,

Nena Harrington, RDN, CDE

President, Hawai'i Dietetic Association