



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

**Date:** 02/14/2018  
**Time:** 08:30 AM  
**Location:** 312  
**Committee:** House Agriculture

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2156, HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. Requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program. Establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education. Appropriates funds. (HB2156 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports HB2156, HD1 to establish two FTE farm to school staff positions within the DOE. Since this is a priority for the DOE, the Board of Education approved the budget that included four farm to school positions and \$228,672, and the Governor's budget request in front of the legislature for consideration includes two farm to school positions and \$114,336.

Currently, the School Food Services Branch (SFSB) has made good progress in implementing the Farm to School Program. However, the ability to grow the program, which includes increasing the consumption of local fruits and vegetables, procurement, developing school gardens, meal planning and providing curriculum and training is beyond SFSB current capacity and capabilities. These additional positions will assist SFSB's ability to move in a more efficient manner in increasing the Farm to School Program.

Furthermore, the result of having these two positions will not just impact the health of children; it will also impact the health of senior citizens that SFSB serves through its vended meal program. It will result in helping the economy through local agriculture growth as well as the local communities in which the schools and senior centers reside.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice,

and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 14, 2018  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2156 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2156 HD1. The purpose of this bill is to establish a farm to school program in the Department of Education with dedicated farm to school staff positions to work with the Farm to School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture, to grow and sustain the Hawaii Farm to School Program. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure.

When the legislature established the Hawaii Farm to School Program in the Department of Agriculture with Act 218 (SLH 2015), the Farm to School Coordinator began working with Department of Education to "address the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities" (HRS §141-11(b)), as well as accelerate school garden and farm based education, and expand the relationships between public schools and agricultural communities (HRS §141-11(a)). This measure supports the necessary coordination between the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture for farm to school success.

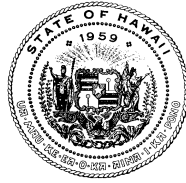
Through the leadership of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch (HIDOE-SFSB) has implemented the 'Aina Pono farm to school initiative, to develop more scratch cooked meals for students and source more locally grown foods for new recipes. In support of these efforts, the



Department of Agriculture has developed the “Hawaiian Harvest of the Month” with stakeholders, as a farm to school promotion and outreach program to connect in-season Hawaii –grown food to school cafeterias, student education activities, recipe development, and farmer outreach. We have seen some success with December’s local beef month and are eager to continue working through seasonal items with HIDOE-SFSB.

The Department of Agriculture is encouraged by the increased purchases of locally grown food the Department of Education has been procuring from local vendors, and supports their continued efforts to work with our local producers. Establishing a Farm to School Program with dedicated coordinators within the Department of Education will provide the critical support to build on the momentum of the current initiative and institutionalize a program with protocols that should work for the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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. 2156 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: February 14, 2018

Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Education  
2 (DOE) regarding the fiscal impacts of this bill.

3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 2156 House Draft 1 (H.B. 2156 HD1).  
4 The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a  
5 farm to school program to be managed by Department staff and, if the program is established, to  
6 require the DOE to work with the Farm to School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture  
7 to grow and sustain the Hawaii Farm to School program. This measure also provides funding for  
8 two full-time positions within the DOE to facilitate the program.

9 Farm to School programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools,  
10 communities, and farmers. The DOH supports the establishment of a Farm to School program in  
11 the DOE to strengthen collaboration between state agencies, provide opportunities for students to  
12 receive nutrition education, improve access to healthy food options in schools, and increase  
13 consumption of fruits and vegetables among youth. These activities align with the prevention  
14 strategy of the Department of Health to reinforce healthy food systems and support youth  
15 consumption of fruits and vegetables in order to establish life-long practices that will reduce the

1 risk for chronic diseases such as; obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some  
2 cancers.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2156, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2156, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Authorize the Department of Education (DOE) to expand student opportunities for farm-based and school garden education, increase the procurement of locally-grown foods for the school meal program, and support coordination between the DOE and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) on farm to school activities and initiatives;
- (2) Requires the DOE to designate a farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the head of the Hawaii farm to school program and the DOA;
- (3) Requires the DOA to collaborate with the DOE on any farm to school program established by the DOE;
- (4) Appropriates \$114,336 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent farm to school staff positions in the DOE; and
- (5) Takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

As a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, the HPCA joins the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2156, House Draft 1  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
Page 2

Accordingly, we **SUPPORT** this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.





Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2156 HD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

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

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2156 HD 1**, which establishes a farm to school program and two critical positions within the Department of Education, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

This program incorporates more locally grown scratch-cooked meals into our public school cafeterias and is a win for all parties involved. This effort started decades ago with passionate advocates, was test trialed in the last year at the Kohala school complex via funding by private sector and non-profit foundation grants, and resulted in adoption by the Department of Education after demonstrating initial success thru data. The results were encouraging, including greater meal participation, less food waste, far higher local food and fresh food content, and, bottom line, lower cost per meal eaten. It also sets the foundation for our students to understand the value and benefits of a scratch-cooked meal and why fresh, locally produced foods are important, thereby influencing their behavior, health, and purchasing decisions for the rest of their lives.

We applaud the Department of Education's leadership to expand this pilot to more schools with the longer-term intention of a statewide rollout.

For farm to school to grow successfully to all public schools statewide, there needs to be additional staff within the Department of Education to manage this program. Based upon the trial results, we believe this program will:

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



- Allow our public school children to eat healthier, more delicious school meals,
- Further educate students about the foods they eat and farming as a career,
- Grow our local agricultural industries,
- Reduce food waste, and
- Increase profitability for State government

We urge this committee to pass funding for this program and the staffing positions.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:22:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeri Di Pietro	GMO Free Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 3:58:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:02:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

In strong support...

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM  
Conference Room 312

**House Committee on Agriculture**

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Committee

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President – Government Relations

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2156 HD 1**, Relating to the HI Farm to School Program

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety

I write in support of HB 2156 HD 1 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a Farm To School Program; requires the Farm To School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any Farm To School Program; and establishes two FTE Farm To School staff positions within the Department of Education.

The Farm to School Programs promote healthy eating habits for Hawai'i keiki both in school and at home through education, school gardens, and school food improvements. The resources available in people's communities, homes, schools, and neighborhoods significantly determine the health outcomes they will experience over their lifetime. At Hawai'i Pacific Health, we recognize the importance of nutrition, health and well being particularly for the next generation.

In addition to supporting healthy food habits amongst Hawai'i students, the Farm to School Program also contributes to improved attendance, academic achievement and behavior by providing more opportunities for place-based experiential learning, physical activity, and active participation in the school meal program. HB 2156 HD 1 provides funding to continue and expand this programming in our public schools. The more than

eighty-five per cent of students in Hawai'i who attend public schools would benefit greatly from the growth of this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB 2156 HD 1.

# kōkua hawai'i foundation



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2156 HD1**  
**House Committee on Agriculture**  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 8:30am, Room 312

Aloha Representatives,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY supports HB2156 HD1**, which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

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 (Actively Integrating Nutrition & Agriculture) 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 23 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 472 educators from over 239 schools and organizations from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

**HB2156 is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide**, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of Hawai'i youth attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer, and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors. 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.

**Having spent the last 12 years working to advance Farm to School in Hawai'i and serving as Core Partner (state-level representative) to the National Farm to School Network, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is highly invested in this movement. We offer our strong support for this measure and look forward to continued and expanded partnerships with the DOE to implement Farm to School in Hawai'i. We strongly urge you to vote in support of HB2156 HD1.**

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)

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







# THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

## Stay Informed

Join our network:  
**FarmtoSchool.org**

Twitter  
**@FarmtoSchool**

Facebook  
**National Farm to School Network**

Instagram  
**@FarmtoSchool**



**NATIONAL FARM to SCHOOL NETWORK**

### GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The National Farm to School Network is as an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into school and early care and education settings.

Updated April 2017

## What is Farm to School?

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 early care and education sites. 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 implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following three core elements:

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

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

**School gardens:** Students engage in hands-on, experiential learning through gardening.

## Why Farm to School?



### KIDS WIN

Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high-quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.



### FARMERS WIN

Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening doors to an institutional market worth billions of dollars.



### COMMUNITIES WIN

Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens the local economy.

## Benefits of Farm to School



**Economic Development**



**Public Health**



**Education**



**Environment**



**Community Engagement**

## Economic Development

### Job Creation and Economic Activity

- Creation and maintenance of jobs in the community and in the state; for every job created by school districts purchasing local foods, additional economic activity creates another 1.67 jobs.<sup>40,55</sup>
- Increase in economic activity in the community and in the state.<sup>40,49,50,55</sup>
- Each dollar invested in farm to school stimulates an additional \$0.60-\$2.16 of local economic activity, in one case resulting in \$1.4 million overall contribution to the state.<sup>40</sup>
- Strengthen connections within the state's food economy.<sup>40</sup>
- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), generating increased revenue for schools through meal programs.<sup>8-9,20-21,23-25,36,41,49,58</sup>
- Decrease in school meal program costs.<sup>41,48</sup>

### Farmer and Producer Income

- Increase in local procurement as farm to school programming matures, with documented local sourcing reaching up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.<sup>7-9,20,22-23,36,37,39</sup>
- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales and establishment of a long-term revenue stream for individual farmers.<sup>7,9,20,22-23,36,39,55</sup>
- Increase in market diversification and economic growth opportunities for farmers; positive relationships for farmers 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.<sup>36-37, 68</sup>

## Public Health

Farm to school is a community-based strategy that includes a focus on creating a healthy school food environment.<sup>1</sup> Farm to school activities support development of healthy eating habits for children while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.<sup>2-5</sup>

### Student Nutrition Behaviors

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 student health behaviors, including choosing healthier options at school meals, 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.<sup>6-31,43-46,49,51,53,57,61-64,67,68</sup>
- Increase in fruit and vegetable consumption among those with the lowest previous intake.<sup>51</sup>
- When schools offer school gardens, 44.2 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables; when schools serve local food, 33.1 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables.<sup>46</sup>
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).<sup>7,20-22,30-33,45,47</sup>



- Tripled amount of fruit and vegetable consumption when students participate in hands-on, food-based activities.<sup>47</sup>
- Minimized diet-related diseases in childhood such as obesity and diabetes through the promotion of eating fresh fruits and vegetables, specifically for high-risk, low-income students.<sup>50,59,61</sup>

### Knowledge, Attitudes and Access

- Improvement in nutrition habits, environmental awareness and health-related knowledge.<sup>57,61</sup>
- Increase in willingness to try and consumption of fruits and vegetables at an older age due to gardening at a young age.<sup>60</sup>
- Increase in access to fruits and vegetables; increase in planning and preparing meals at home.<sup>57,61-64</sup>
- Increase in ability and interest in incorporating healthier foods into family diets and guiding children in early childhood and K-12 to make healthier choices; positive changes in shopping patterns reflecting healthy and local foods.<sup>7,20,22,27,33,68</sup>
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.<sup>33</sup>
- Improvement in household food security.<sup>40</sup>
- Improvement in food service operations to support healthy outcomes, such as increased cafeteria offerings of fruits and vegetables; development of new seasonal recipes; changes in cafeteria waste management policies.<sup>8-9,21,23-25,36,37</sup>



## Education

### Student Engagement and Academic Achievement

- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods, nutrition, growing cycles, seasonality and other STEM concepts (in early childhood and K-12 settings).<sup>7,20-22,26,31-33,42,44,48,49,61,68</sup>
- Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings, including grades and test scores; increase in opportunities for physical activity and social and emotional growth; increase in school engagement.<sup>53,61,63,57</sup>
- Provides children with an understanding of agriculture and the environment; provides children with opportunities for social and emotional growth; improves life skills, self-esteem, social skills and behavior.<sup>34-35,48,50,53,57,63</sup>
- Increased opportunity for innovative teaching platforms for core subjects, such as science, math and language arts in early childhood and K-12 settings.<sup>68</sup>
- Greater opportunity for necessary experiential and hands-on learning.<sup>50,69</sup>
- Encourages low-income students and students of color to engage in food and environmental issues in their communities.<sup>53</sup>

### Educator and Parent Engagement

- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum; intention to implement farm to school activities in the classroom.<sup>7,20-22,30,52,66</sup>
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets.<sup>33</sup>
- Increase in parent acceptance of farm to school programs as their children demonstrate healthier behaviors such as increased fruit and vegetable consumption.<sup>54</sup>
- Increased parent engagement in early childhood educational opportunities.<sup>68</sup>
- Improvements in food service staff motivation and morale; increase in knowledge and interest in local food preparation and seasonal recipes; increase in interactions with teachers to strengthen classroom and cafeteria connections.<sup>7,22,38</sup>



## Environment

### Food Waste

- Reduced food waste of local food, both on the production side as well as plate waste; decrease in overall food waste due to farm to school activities.<sup>41,56,58</sup>

### Sustainability




































- Reduced transportation-related environmental impacts, such as emissions of air pollutants.<sup>50,71</sup>
- Support of environmentally sound, sustainable and socially just approaches to food production, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing.<sup>68</sup>

## Community Engagement

- Increase in community awareness about and interest in purchasing local foods and foods served in school cafeterias.<sup>7,22</sup>
- Improved acceptance of healthier school meals among the community.<sup>58</sup>
- Increase in opportunities to combat racial and economic inequities in the school food system.<sup>70</sup>
- Increase in support from parents and community for healthier school meals.<sup>41,58</sup>



# Summary of Farm to School Benefits

Population	Reach	Benefits	
<b>Students</b>			
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings per day	Public Health	
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health	
Health	Minimized diet-related diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes	Public Health	
Food system awareness	Increased knowledge about gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health Education	 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Academic achievement	Overall improvement in both grades and test scores (K-12)	Education	
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem, social skills and other types personal growth	Education	
<b>Schools</b>			
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Economic Development Public Health	 
Meal cost	Lowers school meal program costs	Economic Development	
Local food sourcing	Reaching up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development Environment	 
Cafeteria options	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables; new seasonal recipes; new waste management policies	Public Health Environment	 
Food service staff	Improved morale; increased knowledge of local food	Education Community Engagement	 
Educators	Positive diet and lifestyle changes; greater intent to integrate farm to school activities in the classroom	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Learning opportunities	Greater opportunity for hands-on, active and experiential learning opportunities	Public Health Education	 
<b>Farmers and Producers</b>			
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development	
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
<b>Families and Community Members</b>			
Local economy	\$0.60-\$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 Community Engagement	 
Low-income students and students of color	Decreases health risks; encourages community engagement in environmental issues	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Parents and families	Increased food security and positive diet changes; increased student participation in meals at home	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Food waste and transportation	Decreased food waste; decreased air pollution	Environment	



## Resources

- Green LW, Sim L, Breiner H. Evaluating Obesity Prevention Efforts: A Plan for Measuring Progress. The National Academies Press, Washington D.C.: Committee on Evaluating Progress of Obesity Prevention Efforts; Food and Nutrition Board; Institute of Medicine. 2013.
- White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report to the President. Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity within a Generation. 2010.
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February 14, 2018

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

Re: HB 2156, HD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2156, HD1, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program and requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program.

HMSA continues to be a strong supporter of the State's farm to school efforts. We see this program as an effective tool in creating healthy habits and connecting with our food sources and community. We have been a strong supporter of the Farm to Hui program which helped facilitate piloting of healthy locally sourced food in our DOE cafeterias.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice President, Government Relations

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:48:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Betsy Cole	The Kohala Center	Support	No

Comments:

It is essential that these positions be funded so that the Hawaii Department of Education can implement its plans to increase the amount of healthy fresh food served to students and increase the amount of locally produced food to 40% of the total. This benefits not only the students who count on school meals for a substantial part of their weekly nutrition but benefits our local food system by stimulating demand for local production.



**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 3:26:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Monday, February 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: **Testimony in Support** of HB 2156, HD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM  
TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagann, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair  
and the Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2156, HD1, relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2156, HD1 and supports its passage as it authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program.

House Bill No. 2156, HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program and establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education. Appropriates funds.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations. (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-316 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2156, HD1 authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/**Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

February 14, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

**RE: SUPPORT HB2156 HD1 Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite & Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2156 HD1. At Blue Zones Project we are working to make Hawaii a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. This measure will be a catalyst to grow the farm to school program in a more rapid, deliberate and organized manner. Dedicated positions in the DOE working directly with the Department of Agriculture will ensure healthier eating opportunities by providing access to fresh, locally sourced foods.

The Farm to School movement has been one of collaboration through many dedicated groups and individuals. Thus far there has been no person within the DOE to ensure optimal communication and organization with the Farm to School position housed within the Department of Agriculture. This bill changes that situation. By ensuring meaningful collaboration through dedicated roles, students, farmers and communities will greatly benefit.

Farm to School programs benefit our keiki, by offering place based learning, lessons in nutrition, exposure to new, healthier foods. In school gardens, the program provides a place where our children learn nurturing, growing and sharing hard work and love. They learn to appreciate locally sourced food, and their interest in healthier foods is nurtured, helping them to make healthier choices at home, and hopefully influencing their families toward healthier choices as well.

Please support healthier keiki by supporting HB2156 HD1.

Thank you,

*Peggy Mierzwa*

Peggy Mierzwa  
Statewide Policy Lead  
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:34:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Koba-Burd	Aloha Behavioral Associates	Support	No

Comments:



**American Heart Association in SUPPORT of HB 2156, HD1  
“Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”**

The American Heart Association supports HB 2156, HD1 “Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program,” but suggests amending lines 10 and 11 on page 3 to “The Department shall establish a farm to school program to:”.

The Farm to School Program helps students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for fresh fruits and vegetables, making it easier to continue practicing healthy eating habits at home.

Obesity is an epidemic in Hawaii, with adult rates more than doubling since the mid-1990s. Additionally, about one in every three children entering kindergarten in our state is already overweight or obese. The danger is that obesity can lead to chronic diseases later in life, such as diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. It is also costly to our society; each year, Hawaii spends roughly \$427 million obesity-related health care costs.

Staying active and eating healthy food are the two main ways to prevent obesity and reduce the risk of chronic disease. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of many of the common chronic diseases. The American Heart Association estimates that 80 percent of heart disease and stroke is preventable through improved lifestyle habits.

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables may help control both weight and blood pressure, and they contribute a number of important nutrients that most people don’t get enough of, including folate, magnesium, potassium and dietary fiber, as well as vitamins A, C, and K. And they are naturally low in saturated fat and calories. The American Heart Association recommends eating eight or more fruit and vegetable servings every day. Average adults consuming 2,000 calories daily should aim for 4.5 cups of fruits and veggies a day. Variety matters, it’s important to eat a wide range of fruits and veggies.

Teaching our keiki from a young age the value of healthy, fresh, and local foods can establish in them healthier eating habits that will continue through their lifespan. The American Heart Association encourages legislators to support HB 2156, HD1 with the AHA’s suggested amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman  
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

*“Building healthier lives,  
free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke.”*

**life is why™** es por **la vida™** 全为**生命™**

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





Date: February 12, 2018

To: The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2156 HD 1, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30am at Conference Room 312

---

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 2156 HD 1, which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to establish a Farm to School Program and establishes two HIDOE Farm to School staff positions.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to the Obesity Prevention Task Force and the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui<sup>i</sup>.

### **State-level support is critical to the success of Farm to School in Hawai'i**

HB 2156 helps to support the progress made by HIDOE toward improving the quality of meals served in Hawaii's public schools. Locally sourced and scratch-cooked recipes and menus were tested in the Kohala Complex on Hawai'i Island during the 2016-2017 school year; the inaugural year of the HIDOE 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program. With lessons learned from Phase I, the HIDOE School Food Services Branch (SFSB) has recently expanded the program to Mililani High School, which is HIDOE's second largest food production site in the state, serving over 3,000 meals per day. State-level funding will continue to build upon these successes and expand Farm to School to HIDOE schools.

### **Strong public support for Farm to School**

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for Hawaii's keiki both in school and at home through education, school gardens, and school food improvements. Public support for Farm to School is strong. In a recent public opinion poll<sup>ii</sup> conducted for HIPHI, 93% of registered Hawai'i voters support increasing government funding to provide more locally grown food served in school meals, while 90% support increasing government funding to provide healthier foods in our schools and communities. In addition, stakeholders from the Obesity Prevention Task Force and the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui have identified this bill as a top legislative priority.

### **Dedicated Farm to School staff are required for statewide expansion**

Ensuring that these school food improvements are made available every day to all 180,000 of Hawaii's public school students requires the full-time dedication of two Farm to School staff within HIDOE. These positions are essential to:

- Expanding school food improvements statewide
- Providing critical support for school garden programs from within HIDOE
- Establishing a protocol for serving school garden-grown produce in school cafeterias

### **Farm to School activities help to promote healthy habits among our keiki**

In Hawai'i, a growing public health concern is that approximately 1 in 4 children entering kindergarten are overweight or obese. Among high school students, only 1 in 5 (21.2%) consume fruit 2+ times daily and 1 in 9 (11.8%) consume vegetables 3+ times daily<sup>iii</sup>. Successful Farm to School programs can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic achievement and behavior.

HB 2156 HD 1 provides essential state-level support for expanding Farm to School in Hawai'i and improving our local school food systems. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director, HIPHI

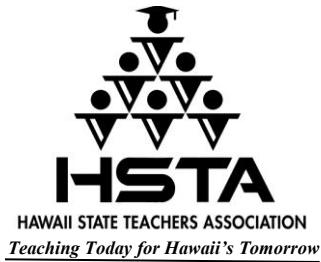
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<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network whose mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's Farm to School movement by supporting our island networks in the areas of capacity building, resource development and sharing, professional development, and policy development and advocacy. The Hui is comprised of five island-level school garden and Farm to School networks, community organizations and schools, and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and the University of Hawai'i. The Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of HIPHI in 2017.

<sup>ii</sup> This study by Ward Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=804 Hawai'i registered voters (maximum sampling error +/-3.3%), conducted between November 13 and December 2, 2017.

<sup>iii</sup> Hawai'i State Department of Health. *Hawai'i School Youth Risk Behavior Survey* (2017)



**LATE**

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Corey Rosenlee  
President

Justin Hughey  
Vice President

Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE

RE: HB 2156 HD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL  
PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2156**, relating to public schools.

Our state's public school buildings are approximately 65-years-old on average. Facilities are damaged, restrooms and water foundations are in disrepair, classroom windows are broken, and campuses are plagued by rat and insect infestations. Our students, especially those with special needs, are subjected to dilapidated infrastructure. Though our state's repair and maintenance backlog has declined, the total cost of lingering projects runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Maintenance and capacity problems are particularly painful for developing communities, like the 'Ewa Plain, which will welcome 28,000 more buildings by the year 2021, and Kaka'ako, in which 39,000 new multi-family units are projected to be built within an approximately half-mile radius of rail transit stations, per the Honolulu Community Development Authority.

Last year, lawmakers passed Act 206, which required the City and County of Honolulu to transfer to the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources all property upon which public high schools located on O'ahu are situated, while concurrently extending the state's 21st Century schools pilot program by an additional five years. Act 206 did not fully transfer all land on which public schools in Honolulu sit to DLNR, however, precluding the Hawai'i State Department of Education from exercising full control of its O'ahu campuses, for which the state nonetheless carries operational and maintenance responsibility.



For the 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools initiative imagined by Act 155 of 2013 to succeed, the DOE must have complete control of public school lands and facilities. Split ownership of these lands hampers redevelopment and impedes the department's ability to maximize the value of its real estate assets. Public-private partnerships intended to generate revenue for the repair, maintenance, and construction of school facilities is only possible if and when the department controls all real property on which schools sit, so that the department can explore innovative ways of managing school space that provide a benefit to both the school and the surrounding community, including through the possible initiation of projects on public school lands that are funded with private capital, like workforce housing.

A quality education is priceless. To provide our children with quality school facilities, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula Adams	Hawaii Afterschool Alliance	Support	No

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

**LATE**

February 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2156, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

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 HB 2156, HD1**, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program, and establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the department of education

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. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak about the challenges 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.

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:32:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:22:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan		Support	No

Comments:

According to *The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America* released August 2017. Hawaii's adult obesity rate is currently 23.8 percent, up from 15.7 percent in 2000 and from 8.9 percent in 1990. For children, ages 10-17 years, the obesity rate is 25.5%, and for Native Hawaiians, the statistic nearly doubles to 40.8 percent. According to a new Dept of Health report, 1 in 4 adults in Hawaii is now obese.

Given these statistics, we wholeheartedly endorse HB2156 HD 1. Likewise, we supported SB2928 that establishes a **farm to school grant pilot program** within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

Whether the lead for the program is in the Dept of Education or the Dept of Agriculture, we support the farm to school program.

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 7:58:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 11:57:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:27:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalani Matsumura	UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an individual and as a junior extension agent in the UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), I strongly support this bill as written. My job responsibility and passion is to educate the public about gardening, agriculture, and the environment, as well as coordinate the UH Master Gardener Program on Oahu. My mission is to help as many people as possible to improve their gardening practices and knowledge by providing unbiased, research-based information. Ultimately my goal is to benefit the environment, support local sustainable agriculture, and increase sustainable practices by our island population.

To this end I believe that I can make the most significant impact by supporting school garden education to reach every child that grows up in this state. There is so much potential in our DOE schools; they have the land, a captive audience, strong support from educators, administrators, and staff, and ties to local communities. Providing paid Farm to School staff will help to support all schools to increase or improve their garden and environment education programs. This will help our youth and families to increase their understanding of agriculture and environment, and hopefully lead to better practices that will improve the quality of life in our islands for future generations.

Many of our extension agents in CTAHR are already supporting this effort and would appreciate the benefit that passage of this bill would have for educating our community as well as supporting our local farmers.

Mahalo,

Kalani Matsumura

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** Jordana Ferreira <gvlmfrzyehfaw@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 10, 2018 8:07 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB2156, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

**From:** anadroj422@gmail.com <Jordana Ferreira>

**Message:**

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB2156, establishing a farm-to-school program. This would work to strengthen local agriculture while providing students wholesome, nutritious food. Many residents-- particularly low-income and rural children-- lack access to the foods required for healthy development. Providing increased access will benefit both physical and cognitive development while encouraging local food production. Please support the health of our farms and families by supporting this bill.

Jordana Ferreira

Waianae

Hawaii

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:43:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Hammer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting children to become self sustaining is important more than ever.

Hawaii is very sensitive to a dependability on outside goods being brought to our islands. Self-sustainability is a skill everyone should learn.

Please support future generations to become more self reliant and plant more organice produce.

Date: February 12, 2018

To: The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Re: **SUPPORT for HB2156 HD1**, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

Aloha House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of HB2156 HD1** which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthful eating habits for our keiki in school that carry over at home. Farm to School helps students develop both an understanding and appreciation for good nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

HB2156 HD1 is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the DOE to improve school food quality and environments. This measure will incorporate school garden programs into school curricula, and allow DOE to work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85% of Hawai'i youth attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program to bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to both improve health and strengthen the economy. Students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthful behaviors to prevent overweight, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, all of which are associated with less healthful diets.

Passage of this measure will improve the health of our keiki and local food systems.

I strongly **support HB2156 HD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 6:11:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2156 HD1 as it simultaneously helps multiple groups or sectors of the community.

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:40:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Burdt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:41:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Introducing children to healthy eating habits will increase their chances of living a healthy lifestyle.

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:15:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee. Mahalo nui for your consideration.



**LATE**

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 9:28:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill for the health of our keiki!

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

A	
1	Support
2	
3	Charity Kaiwi
4	Heather Mohr
5	Brandi Akahi
6	Nicole Kaawa
7	Kilohoku Akahi
8	Valerie Yontz, PhD
	Matthew
9	Kahoohanohano
10	Tulsi Greenlee
11	Pualei Kaohelauii
12	Sharla Sanborn
13	Erin Bantum
14	Ieila ventar
15	Kim Nichols
16	Debbie Apolo
17	Valerie Toro
18	Crystal Costa
19	Scott Stensrud
20	Bryan Mih
21	Jillian Yasutake
22	Tenaya Jackman
23	Erika Kuhr
24	Aly Hite
25	John Ishoda
26	Jenna Lee
27	Dan Domizio
28	Susan Yamamoto
29	Danielle Mitchell
30	Elyse Takashige
31	Joanna Griffith
32	Haley Hildebrand
33	Meredith Speicher
34	Tyler Ralston
35	Linda Bong
36	Mealani Rahmer
37	Paul Ho
38	Mae Kyono
39	Melinda Caroll
40	Crismel Juan
41	Dennis Miller
42	William diGiorgio
43	Alan Trinh
44	Donna Mitts
45	Jenny Welham
46	Shay Chan Hodges
47	Patricia Fleck
48	Tania Fukuda
49	Keawe Kaholokula
50	Julieta Rajlevsky
51	Lisa Kimura
52	Carol Ignacio
53	Tiare Lawrence
54	Annalise Busekrus
55	Michael Kellar
56	Kendra Medeiros
57	Kristin Frost Albrecht
58	Lauren Ruotolo
59	Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert
60	Ellen Train
61	Randy Gonce
62	Normand Dufresne
63	Linda Kalahiki
64	Rosie Vierra
65	Marilyn Gagen
66	Lee Buenconsejo-Lum
67	Denise Mazurik
68	Curtis Palmer
69	Allison Seales
70	Ruthie Diaz
71	Patricia Blair
72	Kathleen Corpuz
73	Melorie Yuen
74	Lillian Coltin
75	kristen martinek
76	Christopher La Chica
77	Barbara Nosaka
78	Laksmi Abraham
79	Cori Takesue
80	Jinan Banna
81	Patti Ornellas
82	Tamara Paltin
83	pahnelopi mckenzie
84	Kathryn Braun
85	Cassandra Kugler

February 14, 2018

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**LATE**

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 2156, HD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312, February 14, 2018, 8:30 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to strongly support HB 2156, HD1, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, requires the DOE to designate a farm to school coordinator to work with the head of the Hawaii farm to school program and the Department of Agriculture, and appropriates funds for two FTE farm to school staff positions.**

This measure would help children to make healthier choices with their meals. In Hawaii, more than one in four kindergartners are overweight or obese. Hawaii's children also have one of the highest rates of dental caries (cavities) in the nation, double the national average. These figures underscore the need to improve access to healthy food and beverages to ensure that the children of Hawaii can make healthy choices to prevent obesity and dental decay.

Bringing fresh, locally-grown produce to our schools is a great way to promote healthy food choices, strengthen local agriculture, and increase kids' awareness of nutrition and local food production. Many residents — particularly low-income and rural children — lack access to the foods required for healthy development. Providing increased access will benefit both physical and cognitive development.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this bill.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**LATE**

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 5:42:22 PM  
Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

NO GMO's, No Roundupk, Organic Only PLEASE.  
www.WeAreOne.cc

**LATE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – 8:30 AM – Room 312

**RE: HB 2156 HD1 - Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program - In Support**

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

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 2156 HD1**, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program; requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program and establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education.

Farm to school programs support a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices. These programs will enhance student educational opportunities relating to the agricultural industry and provide students access to school-grown and locally-grown fruits and vegetables. The two farm to school staff positions are critical to supporting school garden programs. They will establish a Garden to Cafeteria protocol for serving school garden-grown produce in school cafeterias and expand school food improvements statewide.

The Department of Agriculture, working in collaboration with the Department of Education, will ensure optimum benefits for students, farmers and our community.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2156 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lori Lum  
808-544-8343  
[llum@wik.com](mailto:llum@wik.com)



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union United

Hawai'i Food Industry Association

Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden Network

Ulupono Initiative



**LATE**

## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committees on Agriculture

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: February 14, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 312

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

**RE: HB 2156, HD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Creagan, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua DeCoite, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** HB 2156, HD1, relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School program which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. This measure requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program. It establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education and appropriates funds.

If enacted, this bill will be an important step toward promoting the health of our keiki, restoring the sustainability of Hawai'i, encouraging culturally-relevant practices, while growing Hawai'i's economy. We request that charter schools be expressly included in this measure.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui

**LATE**

**HB-2156-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 8:20:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

An essential Bill for the future of the Farm to School Program in Hawai'i. The Department of Education needs the "authority" to create policies and programs that they then can implement into their various departments. The Farm to School Program, will create educational pathways in the areas of Health, Environment, Culture, and Food that connect with core classroom curriculum, improve the DOE's school food service's ability to deliver optimum nutrition for all of Hawaii's students. while at the same time creating a healthier future Hawai'i and building an agricultural economy across the islands. Since the DOE is the largest purchaser of foods in the State, the impact of local purchasing, local consumption, and local benefits will radiate out improving the job market and ability to recirculate this income within our communities. A win win for everyone.



## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** bigcyt@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Charles-Yale Tang  
<bigcyt@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 8:19 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Charles-Yale Tang  
Haiku, HI 96708

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** sweetie@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sweetie Osorio  
<sweetie@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 8:12 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions. Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Sweetie Osorio  
Hilo, HI 96720

**LATE**

**decoite2 - Amanda**

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**From:** st.fjames@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Frances Salvato  
<st.fjames@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 8:09 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions. Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Frances Salvato  
Makawao, HI 96768

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** kanilehuaenterprises@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kuulei Kualaaau  
<kanilehuaenterprises@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:10 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

This measure is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias.

With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Kuulei Kualaaau  
Makawao, HI 96768

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** curenmohama@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Curen Ohama  
<curenmohama@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:11 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Let's change for the better.  
Aloha Kākou!

Sincerely,  
Curen Ohama  
Makawao, HI 96768

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** tsgbrown@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Theresa Brown  
<tsgbrown@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 10:17 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Brown  
Kailua, HI 96734

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** forestaf@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Forest Frizzell  
<forestaf@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:41 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

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Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Forest Frizzell  
Waimanalo, HI 96795

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** srfleonard@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stephanie Leonard  
<srfleonard@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:41 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Leonard  
Honolulu, HI 96821



## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** angelraybpc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Angelina Mercado  
<angelraybpc@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**LATE**

**decoite2 - Amanda**

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**From:** alexjm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alex Miller  
<alexjm@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 6:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions. Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alex Miller  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**decoite2 - Amanda**

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**From:** Dana Ciacci <zhdatrdjzsoqqqs@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 5:37 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB2156, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

**From:** danaciacci@yahoo.com <Dana Ciacci>



**Message:**

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB2156, establishing a farm-to-school program. This would work to strengthen local agriculture while providing students wholesome, nutritious food. Many residents-- particularly low-income and rural children-- lack access to the foods required for healthy development. Providing increased access will benefit both physical and cognitive development while encouraging local food production. Please support the health of our farms and families by supporting this bill.

Dana Ciacci

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** emc539@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Elizabeth Crone <emc539@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 5:35 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Crone  
New York, NY 10034

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** aespejo2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alohalyn Espejo <aespejo2@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 5:25 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions. Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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With more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawai'i attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program that would bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alohalyn Espejo  
Kualapuu, HI 96757

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** rainreed@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rain Reed  
<rainreed@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 4:58 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

As a new teacher, I am disgusted with the food options that our keiki have to eat. I understand that a lot of the Hawai'i kids come from Title 1 families. Food is no cheap I get that. They are trying to keep the costs down to feed by the masses. Instead of eating alone in my classroom, I would eat with the keiki some times. Some walk through the food line and sit at their tables and pick around at what they have to eat. They mention it has not taste, texture of cardboard, and leave the cafe without eating. From the school that our kids attended, students would in school care as soon as they board and leave the bus for about 9 hours a day. I understand that sometimes kids can be picky with what they eat, but even as an adult, I leave some of the food offered from the cafe on my plate as it tastes cheap. I can assure you investing in better food options, such as Farm to School program, it will benefit those kids in multitudes.

Not only will students be working with a sustainable food source, grown in Hawai'i and not imported, but they will also be exposed to more nutritious foods. It will keep farmers with a great job to benefit the growth our most prized possessions. By having better food options available, they are able to practice an environmentally rich lifestyle.

Farm to School programs promote healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Rain Reed  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**LATE**

## decoite2 - Amanda

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**From:** snharris@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Stephen Harris  
<snharris@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 4:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for HB2156 HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture



Hrg: February 14, 2018 at 8:30AM at Conference Room 312

I strongly support HB2156 HD1 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Harris  
Honolulu, HI 96816