

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DOUG CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2156, HOUSE DRAFT 2
Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

February 27, 2018

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor appreciates this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of House Bill No. 2156, House Draft 2. The vision of farm to school is to improve the health of schoolchildren and support local agriculture by incorporating fresh, local food into child nutrition programs. Since 2015, my predecessor former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui spearheaded the Hawaii Farm to School Initiative to test whether this vision is achievable for Hawaii. I am proud to continue to work to achieve this vision, now that a team of public and private partners have demonstrated that yes, it is possible but not without some significant changes made by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to its approach to school food, including (at a minimum):

- (1) Introduction of new menus with recipes that emphasize fresh, local food;
- (2) Institution of staff training to be able to prepare these new recipes;
- (3) Collection of data, financial analysis, leadership training, and waste management to create the efficiencies needed to afford better quality food;
- (4) Conducting agricultural market research and networking to source local food and build supply over time;
- (5) Exploration of new approaches to procurement and contracts with multiple local food vendors; and
- (6) Implementation of nutrition education to encourage students to try new foods and make healthy food choices.

The 'Aina Pono Executive Committee which includes my office, HIDOE, the Kohala Center, and Beyond Green Sustainable Partners has worked tirelessly to show proof of concept. The Legislature now has the opportunity to expand this vision for Hawaii by formally establishing the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program in the HIDOE with dedicated farm to school staff positions.

As state leaders, we must make 'Aina Pono a state priority through policy and legislation. The program has the potential to support local agriculture, boost academic performance and childhood health through improved nutrition, increase food security statewide, and create jobs. The program also impacts multiple departments, including HIDOE, HDOA, HDOH, DLIR, among others. A message from state leadership prioritizing the implementation of 'Aina Pono will set the stage for prioritizing the project within these various departments.

We must also encourage and empower HIDOE – as the single largest public purchaser of food and lead implementing agency for 'Aina Pono – to undertake the significant efforts listed above to implement the program statewide, which amounts to broad-based systems changes within the HIDOE's School Food Services Branch (SFSB). Each of HIDOE's recent internal audits of SFSB indicates that SFSB is understaffed. SFSB simply cannot undertake this level of work without sufficient staffing. Accordingly, I ask for your help to demonstrate the state's staunch commitment to the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program and favorably consider this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 27, 2018
12:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2156 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2156 HD2. 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.

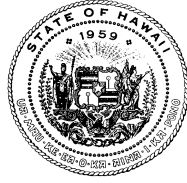
Through the leadership of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Department of Education’s School Food Services Branch (HIDOE-SFSB) has implemented the ‘Aina Pono farm to school initiative, to develop more scratch cooked meals for students and source more locally grown foods for new recipes. In support 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 HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 27, 2018

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Education
2 (DOE) regarding the fiscal impacts of this bill, and to Governor's Supplemental Budget Request
3 for appropriations priorities.

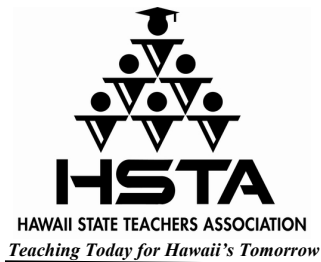
4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports House Bill 2156 House Draft 2 (H.B. 2156 HD2).
5 The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a
6 farm to school program to be managed by DOE staff and, if the program is established, to require
7 the DOE to work with the Farm to School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to grow
8 and sustain the Hawaii Farm to School program. This measure also provides funding for two
9 full-time positions within the DOE to facilitate the program for the fiscal year 2018-2019.

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

1 and vegetables in order to establish life-long practices that will reduce the risk for chronic
2 diseases such as; obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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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
FINANCE

RE: HB 2156 HD2 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

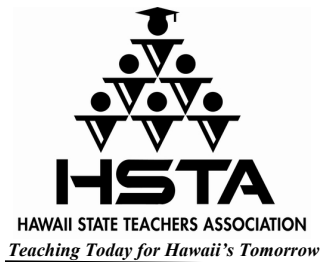
Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2156 HD2**, relating to the farm to school program.

We need to restore the balance in our public educational system in Hawaii. Hawaii's Career and Technical Education programs need to be expanded to provide greater opportunity to prepare young people to design their own futures. The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of education to establish a farm to school program to be managed by department staff and, if the program is established, to require the department of education to work with the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to grow and sustain the Hawaii farm to school program.

This act would provide a farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the department of education to help to make the connections with teachers in the DOE to help them understand not only how the agriculture workforce needs have changed over time, but also how to incorporate sustainability in agriculture that is in high demand in Hawaii and how Farm to School promotes the use of school gardens, sustainability, and healthy eating.

According to the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report from the Workforce Development Council, the average age of Hawaii's commercial farmers is over 60



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years old. Interest in agriculture is waning in our youth and this is worrisome to the industry and to the economy and self-sustainability of our state. There is a common misconception that farming is a low-paying, low-skilled trade. Our youth need to understand that there are a variety of careers within the agricultural industry that need to be filled. They need more workers that are not only technical in nature, but also those who will help to solve the problems listed in the report such as developing new technology and developing ideas for innovation that are critical components to the growth and expansion of the agricultural industry in Hawaii, especially in the areas of sustainability. The agricultural industry also needs workers in business, marketing, and management to refine and streamline production and distribution, along with workers to guide the industry in using sustainable practices, Organic farming, Soil building, and Natural Farming.

Passage of this bill would help provide schools with opportunities for their students to learn about sustainability, healthy eating, and the changing needs of agriculture. It will also provide their teachers with the knowledge they need to incorporate agricultural career paths into their curriculum using school gardens, and farm to table programs with their students.

Hawaii, like most states, is working toward the goal of getting their students 'college-and career-ready,' but CTE experts are concerned that what we mean by 'career-ready' is not always clear, and the supply of quality career-technical education programs has not kept pace with demand. Students must have several options available to them in order to explore a variety of career options, one of them being in agriculture. This bill supports these efforts.

According to a national study, *The Shocking Truth About The Skills Gap (2015)*, only 25 percent of polled job seekers reported receiving career path in high school, and 41 percent said they wished they had received more guidance.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture, and how vital it is to sustainability, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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February 27, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2156, HD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 308
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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, HD2, 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.



February 27, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: SUPPORT HB2156 HD2 Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen & Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2156 HD2. 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 HD2.

Thank you,

Peggy Mierzwa

Peggy Mierzwa
Statewide Policy Lead
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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Date: February 26, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB 2156 HD 2, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00 pm at Conference Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 2156 HD 2, 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 Huiⁱ.

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 pollⁱⁱ 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 dailyⁱⁱⁱ. 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 2 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,



Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ 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 Hawaii'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.

ⁱⁱ 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.

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



**American Heart Association in SUPPORT of HB 2156, HD2
“Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”**

The American Heart Association supports HB 2156, HD2 “Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program,” but suggests amending line 10 on page 3 to “The Department shall...”.

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, HD2 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.



HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 5:35:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

12:00 P.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB2352 HD1**, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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, **HD2**, relating to the Keiki Caucus; Hawaii Farm to School Program; Department of Agriculture; Department of Education; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2156, **HD2** and supports its passage as it authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program.

House Bill No. 2156, **HD2** is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it 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; and 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." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-314 (2016)).

"As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

"We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2156, **HD2** 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; and appropriates funds, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2156, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 2, 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 a blank amount of 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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2156, House Draft 2
Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 12:00 p.m.
Page 2

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.

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

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 — 12:00 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2156 HD 2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 2, 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

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2156 HD2
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12pm, Room 308

Aloha Representatives,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY supports HB2156 HD2**, 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 HD2 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 HD2.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

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The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

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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.^{40,55}
- Increase in economic activity in the community and in the state.^{40,49,50,55}
- 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.⁴⁰
- Strengthen connections within the state's food economy.⁴⁰
- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), generating increased revenue for schools through meal programs.^{8-9,20-21,23-25,36,41,49,58}
- Decrease in school meal program costs.^{41,48}

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.^{7-9,20,22-23,36-37,39}
- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales and establishment of a long-term revenue stream for individual farmers.^{7,9,20,22-23,36,39,55}
- 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.^{36-37, 68}

Public Health

Farm to school is a community-based strategy that includes a focus on creating a healthy school food environment.¹ 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.²⁻⁵

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.^{6-31,43-46,49,51,53,57,61-64,67,68}
- Increase in fruit and vegetable consumption among those with the lowest previous intake.⁵¹
- 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.⁴⁶
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,30-33,45,47}



- Tripled amount of fruit and vegetable consumption when students participate in hands-on, food-based activities.⁴⁷
- 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.^{50,59,61}

Knowledge, Attitudes and Access

- Improvement in nutrition habits, environmental awareness and health-related knowledge.^{57,61}
- Increase in willingness to try and consumption of fruits and vegetables at an older age due to gardening at a young age.⁶⁰
- Increase in access to fruits and vegetables; increase in planning and preparing meals at home.^{57,61-64}
- 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.^{7,20,22,27,33,68}
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.³³
- Improvement in household food security.⁴⁰
- 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.^{8-9,21,23-25,36,37}

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).^{7,20-22,26,31-33,42,44,48,49,61,68}
- 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.^{53,61,63,57}
- 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.^{34-35,48,50,53,57,63}
- Increased opportunity for innovative teaching platforms for core subjects, such as science, math and language arts in early childhood and K-12 settings.⁶⁸
- Greater opportunity for necessary experiential and hands-on learning.^{50,69}
- Encourages low-income students and students of color to engage in food and environmental issues in their communities.⁵³

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.^{7,20-22,30,52,66}
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets.³³
- Increase in parent acceptance of farm to school programs as their children demonstrate healthier behaviors such as increased fruit and vegetable consumption.⁵⁴
- Increased parent engagement in early childhood educational opportunities.⁶⁸
- 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.^{7,22,38}



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.^{41,56,58}

Sustainability




































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

Community Engagement

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



Summary of Farm to School Benefits

Population	Reach	Benefits	
Students			
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	
Schools			
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	 
Farmers and Producers			
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development	
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
Families and Community Members			
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

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February 27, 2018

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 2156, HD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2156, HD2, 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



**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HB 2156, HD2
Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
February 26, 2018**

Dear Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen,

The Kohala Center **strongly supports** House Bill No. 2156, House Draft 2. Through this bill, the Hawai'i State Legislature can make farm to school a clear state priority and empower the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) to implement this important program.

Benefits of Farm to School

For over a decade, The Kohala Center has been dedicated to advancing farm to school in Hawai'i due to the far reaching potential benefits, including:

- **Educational benefits:** improved academic performance
- **Agricultural benefits:** increased demand for local food and increased local food production
- **Public health benefits:** improved childhood nutrition and increased food security
- **Economic benefits:** increase in federal dollars to Hawai'i, expanded agricultural industry, increase in jobs, and improved HIDOE financial accountability

'Aina Pono Farm to School Program – Pilot

In 2015, The Kohala Center joined former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui's Hawai'i Farm to School Advisory Group, and in 2016 we became a member of the Executive Committee to pilot the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program. From 2016-2018, we secured over \$750,000 in grant funding to implement the 'Aina Pono pilot program at the Kohala Complex on Hawai'i Island (beginning in 2016) and at Mililani High School on O'ahu (beginning in January 2018). This private funding also supports data tracking and analysis, the development of new farm to school protocols with School Food Services Branch (SFSB), a farm to school professional development guide for HIDOE cafeteria staff, summer cafeteria staff training, agricultural market research, and assistance with branding, communications and outreach.

Thanks to this substantial investment from the private sector, the pilot program has demonstrated that farm to school is possible in Hawai'i. At the pilot schools, cafeteria staff are chopping fresh local fruits and vegetables, making fresh hamburgers and meatballs from local ground beef, and creating sauces from scratch. In one semester in Kohala:

- local food doubled from 20% to 43%;
- fresh food increased from 27% to 80%;
- participation in school meal programs increased from 51% to 54%; and
- the cafeteria saved \$30,000.

'Aina Pono Farm to School Program – Moving Forward

The pilot program has demonstrated that implementing farm to school requires significant changes in the way SFSB does business. We applaud and greatly appreciate the new SFSB administrator's support for farm to school. *However, according to several years of internal DOE audits and consultant reports, SFSB is currently understaffed and school cafeteria staff are undertrained.* SFSB Supervisors each oversee over 30 schools *plus* an entire departmental function, such as procurement, technology implementation, and menu development.

Compared to their peers in the nation's top ten largest school districts, including New York, Los Angeles, and Miami-Dade, SFSB Supervisors have unmanageable workloads and their audits reflect that reality. SFSB simply cannot implement Farm to School without sufficient staff and resources.

The following changes are necessary to implement Farm to School:

1. **Menu Development.** Farm to School requires shifting from one menu for the entire state to island-specific menus with recipes that use fresh, local food and take into account feedback from cafeteria staff and students.
2. **Staff Training.** Farm to School requires training cafeteria staff at 256 schools to cook with fresh food. For years SFSB meals have included primarily processed foods. Using fresh food requires different food preparation procedures, skills, and techniques.
3. **Financial Accountability.** Farm to School requires strong financial accountability and management to create a program that is financially viable in the long-term. At present, SFSB does not provide cafeterias with budgets, nor does it track profit and loss per cafeteria. To effectively manage costs, SFSB must hold cafeteria managers accountable to a budget and analyze profit and loss per cafeteria. An increase in accountability is essential for the USDA to even consider raising Hawai'i's federal reimbursement rate for federal child nutrition programs to reflect Hawai'i's higher cost of living. Alaska was granted an increase but SFSB's financial recordkeeping contributed to Hawai'i being denied a similar increase. As a result, Hawai'i has been missing out on at least \$15 million in federal funds each year.
4. **Reducing Waste.** Farm to School requires greater efficiencies to afford staff training and quality ingredients for students (although fresh and local foods are not necessarily more expensive than imported and processed foods). At present, SFSB does not require staff to measure ingredients, yields, overproduction, or plate waste. Implementing measurement and management systems will help minimize waste and increase efficiencies.
5. **Setting Goals, Determining Baselines, and Tracking and Analyzing Data.** Farm to School requires tracking and analyzing data to monitor progress towards defined goals. At present, SFSB does not track income or expenses per cafeteria, food waste, or whether food is fresh, processed, local, or imported.
6. **Procurement Innovation & Contracts Management.** Farm to School requires creating new approaches to procurement. For years, SFSB has sought one vendor to supply processed food for the entire state and one vendor to supply fresh produce for the entire state. As a result, SFSB has not had a contract for fresh produce in a decade; no one will enter into a contract to supply fresh produce for the entire state with prices locked in for a full year. The market is too volatile, and the volume is too high. To support Farm to School, SFSB must be willing to shift from seeking one vendor to entering into multiple contracts with vendors on each island to source local food. SFSB must also adequately manage those contracts to ensure that vendors are delivering quality fresh, local foods.
7. **Supply Chain Development.** SFSB is the largest restaurant chain in the state. They can create incredible demand for local food. For local supply to meet that demand over time, SFSB will need to partner with the agricultural sector to develop the local food supply chain.
8. **Nutrition Education and Community Outreach.** Nutrition education and communication with families is essential to students trying new foods and making healthy eating choices.

We hope you will support this bill and transition Farm to School from a privately-funded pilot program to a state priority and an official program within HDOE. Thank you for your consideration of this measure, as well as this opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,



Anna-Lisa Okoye
Chief Operating Officer

Founded in the year 2000, The Kohala Center is an independent, community-based center for research, conservation, and education. We turn research and traditional knowledge into action, so that communities in Hawai'i and around the world can thrive—ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially. Our main areas of interest are energy self-reliance, food self-reliance, and ecosystem health.

Enclosure:

'Aina Pono Program Overview



'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program



'Aina Pono is a collaborative initiative of the Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor, Hawai'i State Department of Education, Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners, and The Kohala Center.

Introduction

Hawai'i has an amazing legacy of land cultivation spanning two millennia. Providing meals for Hawai'i's next generation grown from the lands on which they live is an approach that at one point in our history was the only way to provide meals. Connecting our keiki to "that which feeds" (a literal term for the Hawaiian word 'āina) will grow an understanding and respect for the land with a generation growing farther removed from its utility and capacity.

In 2015, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor convened the Hawai'i Farm to School Advisory Group to develop a pathway toward bringing fresh, local food to schools statewide to reinforce the vision that Hawai'i exists as a perpetual reminder of finite resources, fertile lands, and communities who are committed to the wellbeing of their keiki. Today, 'Aina Pono is the Hawai'i State Department of Education's (HIDOE) pioneering farm to school pilot initiative that aims to bring more healthy, nutritious, fresh, and local food to school cafeterias throughout Hawai'i. 'Aina Pono: Hawai'i's Farm to School Initiative is an expression of the pride we have in food grown in these islands, the ingenuity of the people we trust to feed our keiki and the collective strength to return our communities to a legacy of cultivating fresh, locally grown sustenance to build the minds of tomorrow.

Farm to school encompasses a variety of efforts to connect communities and students to fresh, nutritious food. Farm to school generally includes three core elements: (1) school gardens; (2) nutrition, agriculture, health, and food education; and (3) the procurement of local foods for school meals. The first and second elements aim to help students become "citizen eaters" who understand the connections between food, health, and agriculture. 'Aina Pono focuses on the third element, which aims to create pathways to include local food in school meals. From improving academic performance to encouraging healthy food choices, to supporting farmers and the local economy, the benefits of farm to school programs are truly abundant.

Goals

'Aina Pono has four main goals:

1. Systematically increase HIDOE's **purchasing of local food** for school breakfast, lunch, and snack programs. Target: 40% local food (*i.e.*, grown and/or raised within the State of Hawai'i).
2. **Increase student participation** in child nutrition programs, *i.e.*, increase the number of students that eat school meals. Target: participation increases by 5%.
3. Increase student **consumption of healthy foods** in school meals. Targets: Processed food shall not exceed 40%; food waste declines by 10%.
4. The Initiative will be **cost-neutral** over time, *i.e.*, implementation costs will be covered by cost-savings generated by decreased waste and increased efficiencies. Target: Overproduction shall not exceed 5%.

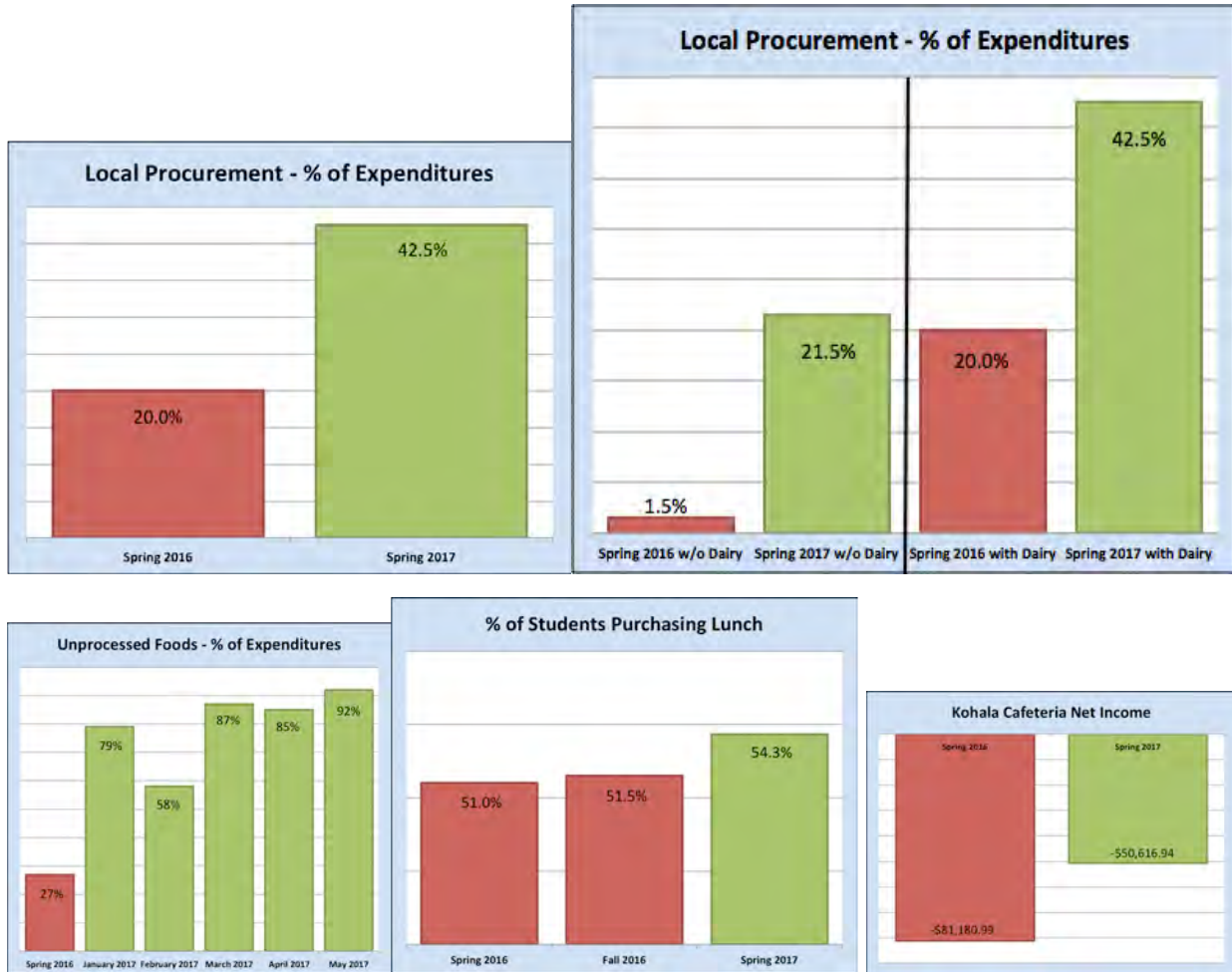
Implementation

'Aina Pono is being implemented by HIDOE's School Food Services Branch in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, The Kohala Center, and Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners. The Initiative includes the following components:

- **Menu Development:** Working with cafeteria staff to develop new student-approved recipes that use fresh, locally sourced ingredients and meet USDA guidelines. Cooking with fresh food is integral to sourcing local food in Hawai'i due to the unprocessed nature of most local food products.
- **Training:** Training cafeteria staff on production planning; just-in-time production; teamwork; leadership; time management; production records; portion control; local procurement; cooking skills; knife skills; offer vs. serve; waste systems; profit and loss analysis; purchasing/inventory/cost controls; customer service; taste testing; and recordkeeping.
- **Data Tracking:** Developing data tracking systems to track profit and loss, waste, and local procurement.
- **Waste Management:** Developing waste management systems to measure and reduce overproduction (*i.e.*, food that is prepared but not sold) and plate waste (*i.e.*, food that is sold but not eaten).
- **Supply Chain Development:** Meeting with farmers and food distributors to increase the pipeline of local food available to HIDOE.
- **Procurement Innovation:** Working with HIDOE's School Food Services Branch supervisors and procurement contracts branch, Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs, the State Procurement Office, and the USDA to develop innovative procurement approaches that support buying local while complying with state and federal laws.
- **Community Outreach:** Engaging community members throughout the state in the Initiative in order to share information, receive feedback, and encourage students to try new menu items.
- **Nutrition Education:** Providing schoolchildren with nutrition education in school garden and classroom settings to connect them to the source of their food and expose them to a wide variety of fresh, local foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

Phase I: Kohala

In November 2016, the 'Aina Pono team launched Phase I of the Initiative at the Kohala School Complex on Hawai'i Island - Kohala Elementary, Kohala Middle, and Kohala High schools. One central cafeteria serves all three schools, with a combined enrollment of approximately 780 students. Sixty-nine percent of enrolled students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. The following graphs show the changes in local procurement, the use of processed foods, participation, and net income from January 2017-May 2017 at the Kohala complex cafeteria.



Local Food Vendors

- Big Island Beef (Hawai'i Island): ground beef and stew meat
- Hilo Products (Hawai'i Island): variety of local produce
- HIP Agriculture (Hawai'i Island): bananas, papayas, oranges, tangerines, tangelos
- Suisan (Hawai'i Island): variety of local produce
- Meadow Gold Dairies (Hawai'i Island): milk

These vendors have purchased local food from the following farms: Akea Farm (cucumbers/Maui), Aloun Farms (cabbage/O'ahu), Maui Gold: (pineapple/O'ahu), Sinaloa Tortillas (tortilla/O'ahu), Sugarland Growers (tomatoes/O'ahu).

Phase 2: Expansion

HIDOE selected Mililani High School as the second pilot site, which serves approximately 2,500 lunches per day to students at Mililani High School (2,552 students), Mililani Uka Elementary (662 students), and Mililani Waena Elementary (767 students). DOE will be selecting additional schools for implementation during the 2017-18 school year and beyond. Implementation will include in-cafeteria training, summer trainings, workshops, videos, and written educational materials.

Project Team

Lt. Governor's Advisory Group

- Hawai'i State Department of Education
- Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture
- Hawaii State Department of Health
- Hawaii State Procurement Office
- State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
- State of Hawaii, Office of Planning
- Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners
- Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation
- Hawai'i Farm Bureau
- Hawai'i Farmers Union United
- Hawai'i Farm to School Hui
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kapiolani Community College (Culinary Arts Department)
- Kokua Hawai'i Foundation
- IslePlan (Jeff Melrose)
- The Kohala Center
- Ulupono Initiative

Funders

- Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
- Hawai'i State Department of Education
- Hawaii State Department of Health
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture
- HMSA Foundation
- Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kokua Hawai'i Foundation
- The Dorrance Family Foundation
- The Kohala Center
- Ulupono Initiative

Executive Committee

Greg Christian

Founder, Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners

GREG@BEYONDGREENPARTNERS.COM

Dexter Kishida

Supervisor, School Food Services Branch, Hawai'i State Department of Education

DEXTER_KISHIDA/FOODSERVICE/HIDOE@NOTES.K12.HI.US

Anna-Lisa Okoye

Chief Operating Officer, The Kohala Center

AOKOYE@KOHALACENTER.ORG

Jayson M. Watts

Senior Advisor, Office of Lieutenant Governor Douglas S. Chin

JAYSON.WATTS@HAWAII.GOV

Photos – Kohala Complex







Photos – Mililani High School



Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 12:00pm
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President and Government Relations

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2156 HD 2, Relating to the HI Farm to School Program

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 2 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 2 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 2.

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 4:52:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PHC HNL	Pioneering Healthier Communities of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

February 24, 2018

Re: HB2156 HD2

The Pioneering Healthier Communities Initiative brings together local, diverse leaders to discuss and support strategies, policies and programs that we can accomplish together to build healthier communities in our island home.

Our State today is in the middle of an epidemic of obesity and chronic disease such as diabetes. The risk begins in early childhood; today about 1/3 of children are overweight or obese. In many of our rural and low-income communities, the problem is much more prevalent and more severe. This translates to thousands of children, adolescents and young adults with significant chronic disease risk in each of our communities.

The members of PHC are involved in helping children and families to become healthier through schools, afterschool programs, healthcare and more. However, we also know, first hand, the incredible challenges of treating obesity and its complications once established.

If we are serious about supporting health, tackling healthcare costs and creating vibrant, more productive communities in Hawaii, ***we must prevent obesity-related chronic disease before they start.*** This will take a sustained, comprehensive strategy involving every aspect of our society – including government, business, healthcare, employers, schools, childcare and more.

HB2156 will authorize the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program.

This will help our public schools to create a healthy food environment. Studies have shown that these programs help children learn about healthier eating. In turn children, have been found to choose healthier options at school meals, and at home, including consuming more fruits and vegetables. Research has also shown that these programs encourage families to make healthier purchases and prepare healthier meals at home.

We also are aware of positive economic, education, and environmental benefits of Farm to School Programs. As such, we strongly urge you to pass this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams

Michael Broderick

Joy Barua

Jennifer Dang

Stacy Evensen

Daniela Kittinger

Daniel Leung

Ray L'Heureux

Michael Libertini

John Mai

May Okihiro

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 8:43:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our children and youth need 2 things that Farm to School Programs can provide. One, when they eat at school, (on Hawai'i Island children get 54% of their total calories each day at school), they can be eating freshly prepared, nutritious foods, not processed and rewarmed foods. Healthy food is the basis of health, learning, and feeling good about oneself. That is no small thing! Secondly, the school garden programs are preparing our students for a very uncertain future. Where does our food come from? What is healthy food? How can we participate in our own healthy food system? How will agriculture deal with climate change and lack of water? How can we be good stewards of our precious ecosystem? All these topics for experiential learning are taught daily in a school garden. Experiential learning engages students in real life knowledge and skill gathering. Please help us help future generations. Mahalo!

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:34:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Rieux	Malaʻai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Rieux,

Program Director, Mālaʻai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 3:38:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lillian Coltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:44:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 24, 2018

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: **SUPPORT for HB2156 HD2**, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

Respected Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of HB2156 HD2** 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 HD2 is essential to expanding Farm to School statewide, providing necessary support to the Department of Education 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 HD2** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 6:42:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:54:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2156. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, and type 2 diabetes – conditions directly related to unhealthy food choices. It also helps to instill a life-long healthy eating habit.

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 8:59:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:07:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to strengthen HIDOE's excellent efforts thus far to improve the quality of school food, source more food from local farmers, and provide nutrition education and garden-based learning opportunities to Hawaii's students!

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:11:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have witnessed firsthand the innumerable positive impacts to students and their communities from the Hawaii Farm to School Program. This program has positive implications for food self-sufficiency, building young farmers, public health, and lowering waste in our school cafeterias. Please support these measures and pass this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:57:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: danamh@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dana Hazelton](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:27:06 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 pediatric nurse that has worked in the DOE for over 8 years I personally see a direct correlation between the nutritional health of our keiki and their physical and educational demands of these growing years. The amount of disconnect between people and the knowledge of our food source is saddening. To truly reduce our health care costs, we need to take responsibility for the way in which we approach our food source, because we truly are what we eat. To connect back to the Aina and respect the gifts that it provides us, only strengthens the health of our community. By teaching children at a young age where our food comes from, how to produce it sustainably, and how it affects our health, ensures that this knowledge is kept alive and we can empower the next generation with choice.

I have worked across the lifespan. I've been in preschools and seen many children with the majority of their teeth capped with silver, consuming snacks with ingredients that only a chemist can pronounce. I then witness that immediately after this brightly packaged snack is eaten, this child has increased difficulty focusing. Many of these children grow into adolescence and are now dealing with weight issues, depression, fatigue, attention deficits, and hormonal dis-regulation. They then become adults facing possible Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, coronary heart disease, auto-immune disorders, and other diet and lifestyle conditions. Often, they need to go on medication for the remainder of their lives, and have increased health care costs.

I currently teach at a community college, and 80% of my adult students are not even AWARE of the direct connection between the foods and drinks they consume and their overall health and well being. The most cost effective, and ethically responsible way to change this, is to focus on the promotion and education of one's health from an early age. To directly involve a child in a Farm to School program will give children an actual foundation of awareness and understanding about food choices.

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.

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.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,

Dana Hazelton, BS, RN

Sincerely,

Dana Hazelton

Koloa, HI 96756

From: pracs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Charles Racsa](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:30:46 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Charles Racsa
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: laksmi.abraham@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Laksmi Abraham](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:00:04 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Laksmi Abraham
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: snharris@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Stephen Harris](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:59:31 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Stephen Harris
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jenna22@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jenna Lee](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:26:26 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jenna Lee
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: pualei.kaohelauii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Pualei Kaohelauii](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:07:48 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Pualei Kaohelauii
Kekaha, HI 96752

From: tenayajackman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tenaya Jackman](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:51:37 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tenaya Jackman
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: kmedeiros@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kendra Medeiros](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 7:28:14 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kendra Medeiros
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: keawe9@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Keawe Kaholokula](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 6:33:30 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Keawe Kaholokula
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: bob-marion@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marion McHenry](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:15:31 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Marion McHenry
Princeville, HI 96722

From: 77coconuts@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jen Azuma Chrupalyk](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 7:29:28 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jen Azuma Chrupalyk
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: eocb44@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Erin Bantum](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 5:29:35 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Erin Bantum
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: selene.legare@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Selene LeGare](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 3:23:26 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Selene LeGare
Kahului, HI 96732

From: hilarysfnc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Hilary Smith](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 12:53:42 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Hilary Smith
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: heatheramohr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Heather Mohr](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 9:01:42 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Heather Mohr
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: iwamotojudy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Judy Iwamoto](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018 6:47:22 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Judy Iwamoto
Aiea, HI 96701

From: atrinh3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Alan Trinh](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:32:27 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Alan Trinh
Hilo, HI 96720

From: bmih@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:12:15 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Bryan Mih
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: angelina@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Angelina Mercado](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:29:53 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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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Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: william.digiorgio@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [William diGiorgio](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:12:52 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
William diGiorgio
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: shay.chanhodges@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Shay Chan Hodges](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 8:48:48 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, HI 96708

From: nihipalim001@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michele Nihipali](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 6:59:44 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michele Nihipali
Hauula, HI 96717

From: cricketlachica@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Christopher La Chica](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 6:29:39 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Christopher La Chica
Mililani, HI 96789

From: dneubert18@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Diane Neubert](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:59:35 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Diane Neubert
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: mauimindfulness@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tanya Gabriel](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:22:21 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tanya Gabriel
Kihei, HI 96753

From: katbumatay@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Katherine Bumatay](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 5:05:12 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Katherine Bumatay
Keaau, HI 96749

From: jme_l@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jaime Hovey](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:56:11 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jaime Hovey
Haiku, HI 96708

From: harmonee@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Harmonee Williams](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:30:15 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Harmonee Williams
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

From: barbrick@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barbara Nosaka](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:24:15 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Barbara Nosaka
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mgoldsworthy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mary Goldsworthy](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:13:01 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Mary Goldsworthy
Tampa, FL 33617

From: kellar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michael Kellar](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:06:28 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michael Kellar
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: singlepayerhawaii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dennis Miller](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of HB2670 HD1, Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:03:05 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I am writing in strong support of HB2670 HD1, which improves access to affordable, healthy, and local fresh fruits and vegetables by creating a matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A matching incentive program that is made available in farmers' markets will help to reduce food insecurity and improve dietary behaviors among many of Hawaii's low-income families. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables will increase the purchasing power of SNAP participants as it frees up room in their budget for other equally essential expenditures such as housing and health care.

Healthy produce incentives will also improve healthy eating behaviors among Hawaii's low-income families. With food costs so much higher in Hawaii than on the mainland, many SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) participants often spend their SNAP dollars on low-priced unhealthy options. Poor dietary behaviors are associated with obesity, heart diseases and other chronic diseases.

The implementation of a local incentive program will also support local farmers and boost the economy. Healthy produce incentives encourage more spending by local markets and can increase farmers' income and customer base.

A matching incentive program is good for public health and the economy. I strongly support HB2670 HD1 and respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Sincerely,
Dennis Miller
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: singlepayerhawaii@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dennis Miller](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 4:02:32 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Dennis Miller
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: aborrego@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Alyson Borrego](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:51:37 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Alyson Borrego
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: cindy_artemis13@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Cynthia Chow](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:49:22 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Chow
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: kbraun2000@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kathryn Braun](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:35:24 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

I am professor and director of Public Health at the University of Hawai'i, testifying as an individual. Research shows that Farm to School programs help children, schools, and farmers. For example, farm to school programs increase students' fruit and vegetable intake, improve students' attitudes towards and willingness to try fruits and vegetables, and increase their knowledge related to nutrition and agriculture.

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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Braun
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: patriciablair@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:31:31 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Patricia Blair
Kailua, HI 96734

From: mgagen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marilyn Gagen](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:22:08 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Gagen
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: dgkahalas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tyler Ralston](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:17:30 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tyler Ralston
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: keikidoc1998@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jenny Welham](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:09:19 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jenny Welham
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: hbonmaui@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Helen Barrow](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:05:47 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Helen Barrow
Makawao, HI 96768

From: mmg2b@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michelle Gray](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:57:58 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Michelle Gray
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: cvoss12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Courtney Berlin](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:53:28 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Courtney Berlin
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: melanie@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Melanie Sumida](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:50:36 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Melanie Sumida
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: eldavis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018 2:42:32 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Elise Dela Cruz-Talbert
Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 1:10:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Domizio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We in the health care community strongly support HB2156 HD2.

Farm-to-School initiatives will improve the diets of children and families, improve the lives of local farmers and strengthen our communities overall. Such programs are at the vanguard of transforming our nation's dietary habits.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 1:43:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: taniaho1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tania Fukuda](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:34:20 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

As a mother of a 7-year old daughter attending Waikiki Elementary school, I strongly support HB2156 HD2 which will create a Farm to School program in the Department of Education (DOE) and provide funding for two Farm to School staff positions.

I am writing this testimony because I am concerned about the future of Hawaii and the health of our community, especially our children. I believe that not all parents have the means or know-how to educate their children about our community and healthy habits, or even feed them a healthy diverse and fresh meal every day. For this reason, Farm to School programs are critical to promote healthy eating habits in our children, especially the students at public schools who need it the most. Farm to School programs within the DOE will allow our public school students, which consists of more than 85 percent of our youth in Hawaii, to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

Please pass this measure that will allow the children of Hawaii to thrive and build a sustainable future for our islands. The Farm to School program will bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, passage of this measure over the long term will help improve our children's health and improve their quality of life. Nothing is more important than the health of our children, therefore, I strongly support HB2156 HD2!

Sincerely,
Tania Fukuda
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: vyontz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Valerie Yontz](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:27:12 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308
Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Valerie J Yontz, RN, MPH, PhD
vyontz@hawaii.edu

Sincerely,
Valerie Yontz
Kailua, HI 96734

From: jfernandez.rx@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [JACK FERNANDEZ](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 12:49:58 PM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

I was born and raised here and attended public school for my entire K-12 education. Thinking about our future generations, they will surely benefit from this.

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
JACK FERNANDEZ
Honolulu, HI 96826

HB-2156-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:50:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We can't afford to create more government positions. The state is in debt.

FIN-Jo

From: jlum737@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeannie Lum <jlum737@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:30 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance



Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Lum
Honolulu, HI 96816



February 27, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

Re: **HB 2156, HD2 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 27, 2018, 12:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to strongly support HB 2156, HD2, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2018
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

HB 2156, HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** HB 2156 as this measure provides a truly beneficial relationship with all parties.

As the first agricultural product to be featured by the Department of Agriculture, the beef industry has seen the results of the Hawaii Farm to School Program first hand. Locally raised ground beef was chosen as the first Aina Pono Harvest of the Month program where 18,000 lbs of beef were used in the school lunch program across the state in December.

The Department of Education (DOE) is the largest restaurant in the state as they serve approximately 100,000 meals each day. While ranchers, processors and distributors are able to sell their higher value cuts at a profit, they often have a surplus of high-quality ground beef and stew meat left to sell. The DOE only uses ground beef and stew meat in their meals and as such have begun to purchase these cuts of beef from local sources. This is truly a win-win for all parties.

We respectfully ask this committee to strongly support this measure and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Date: February 27, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 2156, HD 2, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program**

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai 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, HD2, 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

HB2156

House Committee on Finance

Date/Time: 02/27/2018, 12:00pm

Where: State Conference Room 308

My name is Courtney Riendeau, I am a student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in FAVOR of HB 2156 HD2 which authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a Hawaii Farm to School Program in public schools. This includes funding for two full time equivalent (FTE) staff positions in the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the Department of Education on the coordination of the farm to school program.

I support this measure because children should be connected to the local agriculture community. The children are our future we need to invest in them. Investing in children means giving them the best nutrition they can get. Fresh farm food is more rich in nutrition than processed foods. It is more beneficial for the body by improving health and combating obesity that leads to health issues in the future.

Kids are required to attend school; furthermore, kids spend many hours at school where they are invested in for the well being of their future. An education provides children knowledge to make responsible, healthy and wise decisions throughout the course of their lives. The Hawaii Farm to School Program encourages these educated decisions.

Exposing children in public schools to farm fresh foods will help them create healthy eating habits. Healthy eating habits can be learned in the classroom, school cafeteria or local farm. These healthy eating habits can then be incorporated at home when children choose healthier foods over less nutritional alternatives.

It is never too early to teach children about the agricultural environment in which we all depend on to sustain life. Children are our future and deserve to be exposed to healthy foods at school. This helps them develop healthy eating habits and an appreciation for the food in which they consume. The Farm to School Program encourages more community involvement for the nutritional well-being of children.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,
Courtney Riendeau
Honolulu Hi



LATE

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

Date: 02/27/2018
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2156, HD2 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 HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports HB2156, HD2 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.

LATE

From: mkyono@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mae Kyono](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:01:17 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Mae Kyono
Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

From: diane_omura@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Diane Omura](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 7:53:59 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Diane Omura
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE

From: john.s.ishoda@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [John Ishoda](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for HB2156 HD2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:53:10 AM

Dear House Committee on Finance,

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 27, 2018 at 12:00PM at Conference Room 308

I strongly support HB2156 HD2 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.

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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support HB2156 HD2 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
John Ishoda
Honolulu, HI 96817