



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2497**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: February 7, 2018

Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) appreciates the intent of House  
2 Bill 2497 (H.B. 2497), but respectfully defers to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) regarding  
3 implementation of the measure and to the priorities set forth in the Governor's Supplemental  
4 Budget Request.

5 H.B. 2497 appropriates \$200,000 in general funds for the continuance of the Hawaii farm  
6 to school program in the DOA for fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019. This bill also appropriates general  
7 funds to the DOA in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the three-year farm to school grant pilot  
8 program and \$100,000 for administrative costs of the farm to school grant pilot program for FY  
9 2018-2019.

10 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this Act is to support and sustain the progress of the  
11 Hawaii farm to school program in the DOA and to establish a three-year farm to school grant  
12 pilot program. This bill would also require the DOA farm to school coordinator to submit a  
13 report to the legislature.

1           The Department supports the continuance of the farm to school program in the DOA and  
2 looks forward to collaborating on the development of a farm to school grant pilot program. Farm  
3 to School programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and  
4 farmers. These programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between our state  
5 agencies, improve access to healthy food options in schools, and increase consumption of fruits  
6 and vegetables among youth. These activities align with the Department’s prevention strategies  
7 to reinforce healthy food systems and help students to establish life-long practices that will  
8 reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure,  
9 and some cancers.

10           Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

11   **Offered Amendments:** None.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
MARA SMITH  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE  
February 7, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL 2497  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2497. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill and offers the following comments:

This program is vital step for Hawaii to achieve long-term sustainability of our food supply, economic growth, and active disaster preparedness. When the state commits to and builds these kinds of programs, it is letting the community, the farmers and the vendors know that the state is actively committed to creating a robust, foundational program, showing we are pledging demand in order to grow the supply on our islands.

SPO encourages the use of the Hawaii products preference that allows us to choose local food within a fair and reasonable price range.

SPO also commends the Department of Agriculture for considering innovative, hybrid contract types to effectively procure and maintain continuous access to local foods. The SPO is committed to assisting in the success of this program and believes a larger, long-term, strategic procurement plan should be developed in parallel to these smaller projects.

Thank you.



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

**Date:** 02/07/2018  
**Time:** 08:30 AM  
**Location:** 312  
**Committee:** House Agriculture

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2497 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of the bill to establish a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools, but defers to the Department of Agriculture for implementation.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture  
PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 7, 2018  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2497  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2497. The purpose of this bill is to support and sustain the progress of the Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget..

Since the passage of Act 218 (SLH 2015) which established the Hawaii Farm to School Program within the Department of Agriculture, the Farm to School Coordinator has worked to "address the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities" (HRS §141-11(b)), while working with stakeholders across the state. Farm to school programs help schools make connections with locally grown food and help students make connections with healthy food choices and agricultural careers. This measure's farm to school grant pilot project would provide funding to various stakeholders working on these connections, furthering the mission of the Hawaii Farm to School Program and state sustainability goals to increase local food production and consumption of healthy locally grown foods.

Through the Farm to School Coordinator, the Department has been working directly with the State Procurement Office, Department of Education (DOE), Hawaii



Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities committed to increasing local food production, and it is apparent that Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for our schools need assistance to comply with the prerequisite purchasing demands of state contracting.

The DOE demands Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification in order to purchase directly from farmers. The Department of Agriculture supports DOE's risk assessment to mandate a certification in compliance with the directives of the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). However, the Farm to School Coordinator has noted through outreach that few farms have GAP certification necessary to bid for a State contract, identifying GAP Certification as a hurdle that farmers interested in selling Hawaii-grown products to the State need assistance on. Farmers, ranchers, schools, and nonprofit programs are asking for such assistance to meet certain requirements in providing local food to Hawaii's keiki and this program seeks to do just that.

This measure would also provide general funds for the Hawaii Farm to School Program, which is currently being funded through DOA's limited special funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:03:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Francisco	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 2497, RELATING TO HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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. 2497, RELATING TO HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program (program) within the Department of Agriculture (DOA);
- (2) Require the DOA to collaborate with the Departments of Education and Health, Public Charter Schools, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and farm to school stakeholders to provide grants to public schools, public charter schools, public funded early care and education centers, nonprofit organizations, soil and water conservation districts, farmers ranchers, and other food venders;
- (3) Provide that grants may be authorized for the procurement of foods produced or processed in the State, food-based educational and apprenticeship activities, initiatives to sustain or expand existing farm to school programs, or food safety and good agricultural practices training and implementation;
- (4) Clarify that the grant be used for costs directly associated with approved activities, including labor and professional fees for employees or contractors, professional development and relevant teacher substitute costs, training expenses, travel costs, and necessary supplies and equipment;
- (5) Direct the Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator to report to the 2021 Legislature on the value and outcome of the program;
- (6) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for DOA to provide grants to recipients of the program;



**Testimony on House Bill No. 2497**

**February 7, 2018; 8:30 a.m.**

**Page 2**

- (7) Appropriate \$100,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for administrative costs incurred by DOA in operating the program, including the hiring of a contractor to administer the program;
- (8) Appropriate \$200,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the continuance of the program, for one full-time equivalent farm to school coordinator position, and administrative expenses for the program; and
- (9) Provide that the Act take effect on July 1, 2018, and sunset on June 30, 2021.

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.

We note that a measure authorizing the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, House Bill No. 2156, was heard by the House Committee on Education on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

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.

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:02:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH	Support	No

Comments:

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

Given these statistics, we wholeheartedly endorse HB2497 that would support and sustain the progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program in the department of agriculture.

**Recognizing the high rate of obesity among Native Hawaiians (40.8%), we would strongly recommend amending this bill to provide some type of priority for grants to schools located in predominantly Native Hawaiian communities, such as Waianae, Nanakuli, Waimanalo, and Papakolea or in neighborhoods within or adjacent to Hawaiian Home Lands.**

As the measure recognizes, the farm to school programs enhance student education, connect students with agricultural concepts and practices, improve childhood nutrition, and support the needs of the whole child with numerous benefits during and after the school day. Included in these benefits are increases in academic achievement that result from place-based experiential learning with physical activity, increases in student participation in school meal programs and preference for fresh fruits and vegetables contributing to improved student nutritional habits and overall health, and improvements in overall student behavior, school attendance, and family and community engagement.

The farm to school activities support a nutritious school food environment in public schools, which are attended by more than eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's children and youth. Because farm to school activities familiarize students with locally grown foods and increase student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables at school and at home, investing in farm to school programs means investing in the health of children by helping to establish healthy behaviors at an early age, which may prevent the onset of chronic diseases that appear later in life including heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in Hawaii.

Please pass HB 2497. It's an investment in the health of Hawaii's youth.

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:50:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2497. As a board member for Ka'ala Farms Inc. in Wai'anae Valley, I have seen the success of farm to school programs in predominatly Hawaiian communities. It has raised cultural pride and health in students from middle school to high school.



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2497, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

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

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

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2497**, which establishes a farm to school grant program and a continuation of the Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

For farm to school to grow successfully to all public and charter schools statewide, there needs to be a continuation of the Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture to manage the growth. Furthermore, the current Farm to School Coordinator Robyn Pfahl possesses procurement experience. If our schools would like to be able to add more local food into its programs and cafeterias, Robyn's understanding of procurement issues is a valuable skill set to possess.

The grant program would help schools to be able to obtain funding to develop their internal farm to school programs that students can participate and learn. This should lead to more children eating healthier nutritious local food and developing interest in future agricultural careers.

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

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2497 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2497.

Section 1. We concur with the listed reasons in HB 2497 that describe how farm to school programs are beneficial to the education and health of students. A further advantage of farm to school programs is the assurance of a specific and sustained market for locally grown products that the school system represents. We also concur that food safety issues are important criteria that are necessary for products grown for farm to school programs, and that farmers likely require assistance to understand and comply with these standards. We further support the introduction of a grant pilot program.

Section 2. We support the details in this section and suggest that an additional criterion in part 3A should be that the agricultural operation from which food is purchased be shown to be of sufficient size and scale of operation to be a commercial operation that is able to provide reliable and sustained delivery of product to ensure the continuity in a farm to school program. We also suggest that an additional item in Section 2d be included that outlines a non-inclusive list of criteria that should be used in Section 3 to determine the value, outcomes and impacts of the project. That would allow the project manager to document and monitor the value and impact as the project proceeds, and to potentially identify issues that need to be addressed during the life of the project.

Sections 3-6. We support the program as identified in these sections.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2497.



**American Heart Association in SUPPORT of HB 2497,  
“Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”**

The American Heart Association supports HB 2497, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program.

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. An average adult consuming 2,000 calories daily should aim for 4.5 cups of fruits and vegetables a day. Also, variety matters, so 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 2497.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman".

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.*







**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair**  
**Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair**

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2018  
TIME: 8:30 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 312

**HB 2497 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

Establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Respective Committees:

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 2497 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 HB 2497 and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.





## HUI MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Farm to Keiki  
(Preschool/ECE)

FoodCorps Hawai'i

Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Association of  
Independent Schools  
(HAIS)

'Iolani School/O'ahu Farm  
to School Network

Kamehameha Schools

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens  
of Waimea Middle School

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i  
School Garden Network

Maui School Garden  
Network

Pacific Resources for  
Education and Learning  
(PREL)

Sustainable Molokai/  
Molokai School Garden  
Network

The Kohala Center/Hawai'i  
Island School Garden  
Network

Date: February 6, 2018

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

From: Lydi Bernal, Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2497  
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hearing: February 7, 2018 at 8:30am in Conference Room 312

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2497**, which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and makes appropriations for the continuance of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and coordinator position in HDOA.

### Sustaining the momentum

The establishment of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and coordinator position in HDOA via Act 218 in 2015 represented a major increase in capacity for Hawaii's farm to school movement. HB2497 provides critical support to the HDOA for the continuation of this important program in order to building on the momentum gained thus far toward:

- Increasing the procurement of locally-grown foods for school meals and other state agencies;
- Strengthening agriculture education for the development of future farmers;
- Collecting statewide data via the Hawai'i Farm to School Census;
- Ensuring food safety practices on farms and in schools; and
- Building inter-agency collaboration and public-private partnerships.

### A vital investment for our state

Every dollar invested in farm to school generates a sales multiplier effect of 1.03 to 2.4 for the local economy.<sup>1</sup> Farm to school positively impacts the areas of economic development, public health, agriculture, education, the environment, and community engagement, specifically by:

- Improving student health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables;
- Enhancing educational opportunities and improving student success; and
- Strengthening our agricultural sector by growing future farmers and expanding the demand and market for locally grown foods.<sup>2</sup>

### Local investment to date

Hawaii's farm to school movement has experienced steady growth over the last decade, thanks largely to a significant investment of resources by the private sector. Not including funds invested in the Hawai'i Department of Education's (HIDOE) 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program, it is conservatively estimated that over \$6.5 million was invested from 2007-2017 in developing school-level farm to school programs in Hawai'i and strengthening the statewide movement, with eighty four percent (84%) or \$5.5 million

from private sources, and sixteen percent (16%) or \$1 million from public sources, including approximately \$791,300 invested by our state government since 2007.<sup>3</sup>

### **Foundation of success through quality school-level programs**

Today, eighty eight percent (88%) or 225 of Hawaii's 256 K-12 public non-charter schools have gardens, which range in their levels of quality, teacher and student involvement, and curricular integration.<sup>4</sup> These programs range in size from individual planter boxes to large-scale school food farms and may or may not have a dedicated, trained, paid garden educator to support them. While exciting improvements in the quality of school food are on the horizon through the expansion of HIDOE's 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program, it is important to note that the full benefits of farm to school are only realized when high quality, well-rounded programs are in place, which include school gardens and relevant educational opportunities for all students (e.g. nutrition, culinary, agriculture, food systems education). A farm to school grant program for Hawai'i is essential to the development and sustainability of successful school-level farm to school programs that provide a direct benefit to students and communities while ultimately ensuring the success of state-level farm to school efforts.

### **Model farm to school grant programs**

A number of other states operate successful farm to school grant programs. Leading the way is the state of Oregon, which in 2017 appropriated \$4.5 million over two years for farm to school grants covering local food purchases and food-based, agriculture-based, and garden-based educational activities in schools.<sup>5</sup> This program began as a pilot in 2011 with a legislative allocation of \$200,000 and grew to \$1.2 million in 2013 and \$4.5 million in 2015. Washington DC's School Garden Program, which serves a school district similar in size to ours, provides \$400,000 in grants to public and charter schools every two years with a focus on funding staff that oversee all aspects of the school garden programs including instruction, program management, and garden care.<sup>6</sup>

HB 2497 provides essential state-level support for expanding farm to school in Hawai'i. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Me Ke Aloha,



Lydi Bernal  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, HIPHI

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 networks, community organizations and schools, and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and the University of Hawai'i. The Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of HIPHI in 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Becot, F., J. M. Kolodinsky, E. Roche, A. E. Zipparo, L. Berlin, E. Buckwalter, and J. McLaughlin. (2017) "Do Farm-to-School Programs Create Local Economic Impacts?" *Choices: A publication of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association* 32(1)

<sup>2</sup> National Farm to School Network, *The Benefits of Farm to School* (Apr 2017)

<sup>3</sup> Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, *Farm to School Investment Survey to Members* (Jan 2018)

<sup>4</sup> Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health, *Safety and Wellness Survey 2016-2017* (Nov 2017)

<sup>5</sup> National Farm to School Network, *State Farm to School Legislative Survey 2002-2017* (Nov 2017)

<sup>6</sup> District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, *Notice of Funding Availability, DC School Garden Grant* (May 2017)

**LATE**

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:58:49 AM  
Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Springer Kaye	Kaye Family Farms	Support	No

Comments:

Kaye Family Farms produces lychee, longan and grass fed Big Island Beef, in Rural South Hilo. We strongly support this bill and other funding opportunities to help farmers comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act and increase access to markets for our produce. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:31:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Gorham		Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – 8:30 AM – Room 312

**RE: HB 2497 - Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program –  
In Support**

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

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 2497**, which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

Farm to school programs support a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices. These programs will enhance student educational opportunities relating to the agricultural industry and provide students access to school-grown and locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Additionally, farm to school programs contribute to local food production.

The appropriations in this bill are critical to supporting and sustaining the progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program.

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

We respectfully request your support of HB 2497. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lori Lum  
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4 Ag Hawai'i  
Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Association of  
Independent Schools  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United  
Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association  
Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Malama Kaua'i  
Maui School Garden  
Network  
Ulupono Initiative

**LATE**

**Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:30AM**

Conference Room 312

House Committee on Agriculture

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President & Government Relations

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2497 – Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program**

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My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President and Government Relations at Hawai'i Pacific Health. 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 testify in strong support of HB 2497 which establishes a Farm To School Grant Pilot Program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawai'i Farm To School Program; requires the Hawai'i Farm To School Coordinator to submit a report to the legislature; and makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawai'i Farm To School Program and Coordinator position.

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. 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. Over half of Hawai'i adults are overweight or obese, and half have prediabetes or type 2 diabetes. We have to do better by our keiki, teaching them from the beginning the value of healthy, fresh, and local foods.

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 2497 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 2497.



**LATE**

**HB-2497**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:12:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Kohala Center urges legislators to fully fund the Hawaii Dept. of Education's effort to purchase and prepare fresh, high quality, local food for our public school students. This not only increases our students' capacity for academic success through access to proper nutrition in what is often their primary meals of the day but also stimulates our economy through building capacity in our agricultural sector.

Elizabeth Cole

The Kohala Center



Date: February 6, 2018  
To: The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture  
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network  
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2497  
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program  
Hearing: February 7, 2018 at 8:30am in Conference Room 312

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair DeCoite and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in **strong support of HB2497** which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program and makes appropriations for the continuance of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Founded in 2012 and coordinated through 'Iolani School and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), OFSN works to strengthen and connect farm to school programs on O'ahu by building the network of service providers and producing professional development and policy advocacy opportunities for stakeholders. For the public and charter schools on Oahu served by OFSN, the greatest need is often access to resources to implement a successful, safe farm to school program at an individual school. Learning gardens require dedicated educators, passionate family and community members but also the financial means to purchase the necessary tools and supplies to build and sustain a successful garden program. In addition, there are limited available funding opportunities to support school gardens leaving most schools to request donations or fundraise from their own families. Appropriations made by HB2497 would allow for schools to articulate and request funding for their most pressing needs.

We support school garden safety and best practices first and foremost. Providing the monetary resources for schools to implement best practice strategies is our most pressing need.

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to submit testimony. I respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,

*Debbie S. Millikan*

Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network