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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018  
11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2387 SD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2387 SD1. 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.



Date: February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2387, SD1, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00 am at Conference Room 211

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2387, SD1 which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to establish a Farm to School Program and establishes two HIDOE Farm to School staff positions.

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

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

SB 2387, SD1 helps to support the progress made by HIDOE toward improving the quality of meals served in Hawaii's public schools. Locally sourced and scratch-cooked recipes and menus were tested in the Kohala Complex on Hawai'i Island during the 2016-2017 school year; the inaugural year of the HIDOE 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program. With lessons learned from Phase I, the HIDOE School Food Services Branch (SFSB) has recently expanded the program to Mililani High School, which is HIDOE's second largest food production site in the state, serving over 3,000 meals per day. State-level funding will continue to build upon these successes and expand Farm to School to HIDOE schools.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SB 2387, SD1 provides essential state-level support for expanding Farm to School in Hawai'i and improving our local school food systems. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director, HIPHI

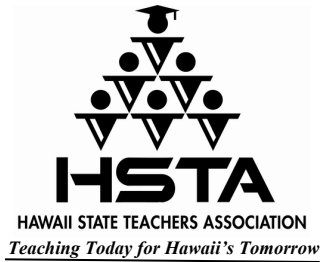
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<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making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

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

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

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



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Corey Rosenlee  
President

Justin Hughey  
Vice President

Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2387 SD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL  
PROGRAM.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

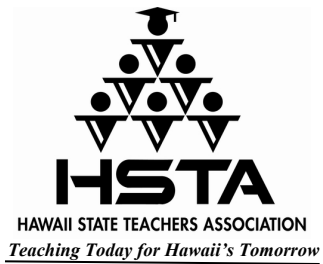
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2387 SD1**, 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. What better way than to support and expand our farm to school program? Not only will this program be helping to provide fresh and locally grown food for our students, but this bill will also expand the development and use of school gardens to provide hands-on experiences for our students to understand agriculture and sustainability more.

By developing this important connection between our students, farms, and agriculture in general, we can also expand the curiosity in our students who will be the ones in the future that will help to solve the challenges with new technology in agriculture by 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. By having a coordinator in the Farm to School program that acts as a liaison between agriculture in our community and our schools, we can develop future careers for our students in agriculture, perhaps with vertical farming, aquaponics, organic farming



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Executive Director

etc.

Passage of this bill would help coordinators within the DOE to work with the agricultural community to provide 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, while also incorporating the importance of nutrition and the value of fresh produce served for their school lunches.

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 the continuation and expansion of these efforts through the farm to school program.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture and the nutritional value of fresh locally grown food, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Friday, February 23, 2018 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 211

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2387 SD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB 2387 SD 1**, which establishes a farm to school program and two critical positions within the Department of Education, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

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

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

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

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:43:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Rieux	Testifying for Malaʻai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School	Support	Yes

Comments:

**[COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

My name is Amanda Rieux and I am with MÄ• laʻai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island. We are a non-profit working in partnership with Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island. Our program at Waimea Middle School 13 years old and we have provided over 2 million dollars of services to the students of Waimea Middle School in that time. I am writing today in strong support of SB2387 relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program.

I am testifying in support of SB2387 for several reasons.

There is tremendous and building momentum in the farm to school movement in Hawaii. Around the state, school-by-school, we have built this movement over the last decade.

At this time 87% of our public schools have school gardens. These gardens are have been developed by educators, parents, nonprofits and volunteers all over the state as a grassroots effort to provide what our school children need most. School gardens provide hands-on real-world learning environments and direct connection to healthy food and activity. These learning gardens engage our students in learning and will impact their ability to make good choice and take care of themselves in the future. (Health issues relating to food and physical activity are at an epidemic level for the population of students at the Waimea Middle School. For example, given their demographics, statistically 2 out 3 of our students will develop Adult Onset Diabetes during their lifetime.)

School gardens are a foundational part of the Farm to school movement and they are already in over ¾ of the schools. With allocated positions to work in concert with the DOA to build our state's Farm to School program our Hawaii DOE could begin to

provide institutional support for this huge movement that is already taking place in schools.

A robust Farm to School Program will:

- Create reliable markets for farmers encouraging diversified agriculture
- Encourage young people to learn about farming and food systems and to become involved in our food system as farmers, food purveyors etc.
- Increase our capacity to grow our own food in the state
- Spend money locally instead of importing food from out of state
- Provide nourishing meals for our school children

This program will benefit our state economically, move us toward sustainability, and critically, provide nourishing, delicious meals for the children in our state, especially the most vulnerable ones who rely on school meals.

I urge you to support SB2387 for the benefit of our farmers, our schools, our children and our ability to build a sustainable future for the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rieux

Program Director

MÄ• la'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School



## American Heart Association in SUPPORT of SB 2387, SD1 “Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”

The American Heart Association supports SB 2387, SD1 “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 vegetables.

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 SB 2387, SD1.

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.



# kōkua hawai'i foundation



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2387, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
February 23, 2018 at 11 am, Conference Room 211

Aloha Senators,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2387 SD1**, 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. One of our programs is 'ĀINA In Schools, 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.

**SB2387 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 within the DOE 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 SB2387.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,  
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,  
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,  
Executive Director

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

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





# THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

## Stay Informed

Join our network:  
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**National Farm to School Network**

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### GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

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

Updated April 2017

## What is Farm to School?

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education sites. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following three core elements:

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

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

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

## Why Farm to School?



### KIDS WIN

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



### FARMERS WIN

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



### COMMUNITIES WIN

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

## Benefits of Farm to School



**Economic Development**



**Public Health**



**Education**



**Environment**



**Community Engagement**



## Economic Development

### Job Creation and Economic Activity

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

### Farmer and Producer Income

- Increase in local procurement as farm to school programming matures, with documented local sourcing reaching up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.<sup>7-9,20,22-23,36-37,39</sup>
- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales and establishment of a long-term revenue stream for individual farmers.<sup>7,9,20,22-23,36,39,55</sup>
- Increase in market diversification and economic growth opportunities for farmers; positive relationships for farmers with school districts, parents and community members; farmers contracted to plant crops for schools; opportunities to explore processing and preservation methods for institutional markets; establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.<sup>36-37, 68</sup>

## Public Health

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

### Student Nutrition Behaviors

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 student health behaviors, including choosing healthier options at school meals, consuming more fruits and vegetables through farm to school meals and at home (+0.99 to +1.3 servings/day), consuming less unhealthy foods and sodas, reducing screen time and increasing physical activity.<sup>6-31,43-46,49,51,53,57,61-64,67,68</sup>
- Increase in fruit and vegetable consumption among those with the lowest previous intake.<sup>51</sup>
- When schools offer school gardens, 44.2 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables; when schools serve local food, 33.1 percent of students eat more fruits and vegetables.<sup>46</sup>
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).<sup>7,20-22,30-33,45,47</sup>



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

### Knowledge, Attitudes and Access

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



## Education

### Student Engagement and Academic Achievement

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

### Educator and Parent Engagement

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



## Environment

### Food Waste

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

### Sustainability




































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

## Community Engagement

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



# Summary of Farm to School Benefits

Population	Reach	Benefits	
<b>Students</b>			
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings per day	Public Health	
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health	
Health	Minimized diet-related diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes	Public Health	
Food system awareness	Increased knowledge about gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health Education	 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Academic achievement	Overall improvement in both grades and test scores (K-12)	Education	
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem, social skills and other types personal growth	Education	
<b>Schools</b>			
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Economic Development Public Health	 
Meal cost	Lowers school meal program costs	Economic Development	
Local food sourcing	Reaching up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development Environment	 
Cafeteria options	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables; new seasonal recipes; new waste management policies	Public Health Environment	 
Food service staff	Improved morale; increased knowledge of local food	Education Community Engagement	 
Educators	Positive diet and lifestyle changes; greater intent to integrate farm to school activities in the classroom	Public Health Education Community Engagement	  
Learning opportunities	Greater opportunity for hands-on, active and experiential learning opportunities	Public Health Education	 
<b>Farmers and Producers</b>			
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development	
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
<b>Families and Community Members</b>			
Local economy	\$0.60-\$2.16 economic activity generated for every \$1 spent	Economic Development	
Job creation	Each new farm to school job contributes to the creation of additional 1.67 jobs	Economic Development Community Engagement	 
Low-income students and students of color	Decreases health risks; encourages community engagement in environmental issues	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Parents and families	Increased food security and positive diet changes; increased student participation in meals at home	Public Health Community Engagement	 
Food waste and transportation	Decreased food waste; decreased air pollution	Environment	



## Resources

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**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:36:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lehn Huff	Testifying for Maui School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:33:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:31:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 21, 2018

From: Pioneering Healthy Communities – Honolulu

Re: SB 2387 SD1 (DOE F2S Program & Staff)

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 and 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.

SB2387 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 this opportunity to provide this testimony.

May Okihiro

Michael Broderick

Daniel Leung

Tina Tamai

Diane Tabangay

Jennifer Dang

Paula Adams

Ray L'Heureux

Michael Libertini

Daniele Kittinger

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:49:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marnie Record	Testifying for Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:31:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Becklin	Testifying for Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

I am the Executive Director for Grow Some Good. We are a non-profit on Maui working in schools to support school gardens with end goals to provide better nutrition, teach kids where their food comes from and build future farmers for Hawaii. We have been working on this mission for almost 10 years now. It went from being an all volunteer program supporting one school to a curriculum-based program in 11 schools that support almost 4500 students each year. I am one of 8 part-time employees. A few of our garden educators are paid partially at a part-time teacher by the schools and partially by Grow Some Good. One also is paid by the YMCA A+ after school program.

We are all passionate by what we do. We do make a difference in the lives of kids as indicated by our [survey results](#) and from parents who share that kids are choosing to eat more vegetables, are willing to try different types of food and are advocates for their food choices.

Our programs vary across schools from having 100% participation of students (in 4 schools) to having teachers sign up for garden class each week (almost like a lottery). The average student has a 45 minute garden class every 2 weeks. In the class, they are taught respect for our 'aina, how to grow vegetables and as often as possible give the kids a chance to prepare and eat something they've made. We teach much more than just gardening; we teach math, science, environment, and social studies. Our educators are [college educated](#) with degrees in agriculture, environmental sciences and education. We've come a long way from our volunteer-based roots.

This evolution has come because that is what the schools asked for.

And yet, the biggest obstacle we face each year is turnover of administration in our schools. It seems we have to convince each new principle of the value of the program. Last year, a week before school started 5 of our 11 schools had a change in principals.

By putting more focus at the higher levels of the DOE, focused both on education and food services, would keep a clear focus on supporting the Farm to School efforts. It would help in making implementation more consistently applied across schools and get



more kids eating local, healthy foods, looking forward to positions in agriculture and food services.

Our economy needs this. Our kids need this. #NoChildLeftInside

Please support this bill!

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:02:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melinda Caroll	Testifying for Youth Education Coordinator	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Melinda Caroll, a resident of the Hawaiian Islands for 40 years. My daughter is born and raised here and now her daughter. I have worked with Hawai'i children through Girl Scouts and local schools since 1989 and I am in support of the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. As a mother and a teacher I can attest to the long range benefits of teaching our children how to control their own food! This program would help establish fundamental skills in teaching children to not only grow, but to safely harvest, cook and eat it, helping provide food security for our islands and life giving skills. We need 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, plus two FTE farm to school staff positions within the department of education and appropriate the funding needed to do so. Thank you.

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:43:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mahalo to the Department of Education for stepping up to the Farm to School Plate! Having the DOE on board is so important for the long-term success of our Hawai'i Farm to School Program. Dedicated staff positions, will enhance and build capacity within the DOE to continue to support these kinds of educational programs. School Garden and School Farms Programs, healthier meals in our cafeterias for our keiki and youth, local purchasing from our farmers, fishermen, ranchers, and value added products all will both raise the health of our children and help build a more vibrant agricultural economy in the State of Hawai'i.

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:40:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Testifying for HFUU	Support	No

Comments:



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 23, 2018; 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 2387, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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** Senate Bill No. 2387, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Require the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a Farm to School Program (Program) 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) Direct the DOE to designate a farm to school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the head of the Program and the DOA; and
- (3) Appropriates \$114,336 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent farm to school staff positions in the DOE.

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.

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 11:00AM  
Conference Room 211

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President & Government Relations

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2387 SD 1 – Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program**

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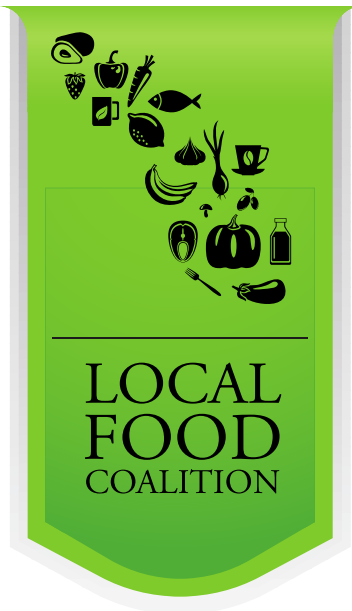
My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President and Government Relations at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region 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 SB 2387 SD 1 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a Farm To School Program; requires the Farm To School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any Farm To School Program; establishes two FTE Farm To School staff positions within the Department of Education; and appropriates funds for these purposes.

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. SB 2387 SD 1 provides funding to continue and expand this programming in our public schools. The more than eighty-five per cent of students in Hawai'i who attend public schools would benefit greatly from the growth of this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of SB 2387 SD 1.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Friday, February 23, 2018 – 11:00 AM – Room 211

**RE: SB 2387 SD1- Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program  
- In Support**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports SB 2387 SD1**, which requires the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program; requires the farm to school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to work in collaboration with the Department of Education on any farm to school program and establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the Department of Education.

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

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

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

We respectfully request your support of SB 2387 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of  
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United

Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association

Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden  
Network

Ulupono Initiative



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:59:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Mason	Testifying for HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 12:02:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:43:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:51:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arielle Simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:30:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
greg martino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Obviously a positive move forward

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:31:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Viktoria Grover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill. The first paragraph sums it up nicely: "The legislature finds that farm to school programs benefit students in multiple ways. They provide students with agricultural education, which contributes to improved attendance, academic achievement, and behavior; while also increasing opportunities for place-based experiential learning, physical activity, and active participation in the school meal program." This is exactly what we need for Hawaii!

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:38:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:41:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help inspire our youth by passing this outstanding program for our school children. Thank you!

Terez Amato Lindsey, Kihei, Maui

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:54:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:32:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:39:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Timothy Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:47:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

True educational supportive legislation. The health of our nation depends on the health of

its citizens, beginning with well fed and well educated children. Healthy legislation is made by healthy legislators.

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:09:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lawrence Duenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:15:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:28:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

DOE must establish a farm to school program.



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:44:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 5:13:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tasia Y	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou-

I am writing in strong support of SB 2387 which establishes two full time farm-to-school positions in the DOE (in addition to establishing a farm-to-school program within the DOE).

It is surprising that there isn't already a farm-to-school program within the Hawai'i DOE system or any full time employees working specifically on this program. The benefits of outdoor/hands-on/place and project-based learning on emotional health and academic outcomes are seen in countless studies. I have worked as a garden educator with k-12 students (and now with university students) and can attest to the positive benefits of the outdoor garden classroom for behavioral issues as well as to supplement what is being learned in the indoor classroom. Different students learn in different ways. We can't expect all students to thrive within the indoor classroom. A farm-to-school program would not only teach students the importance of plants and the foods they eat (not to mention, students are more likely to eat healthy foods if they've taken part in growing them) but also provide a means of hands-on, experiential learning to make what they're learning more tangible and relevant.

This is the direction that many states in the U.S. are taking and Hawai'i should not be left behind. The keiki are our future. Let's invest in their academic learning while also teaching them healthy eating habits and how to be good stewards of our 'Āina.

Mahalo nui for considering this testimony in support of SB2387.

Tasia Yamamura

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 5:15:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

[SB2387](#) would fund two staff positions at the DOE to formally establish and expand the Farm to School program. This will help students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for fresh fruits and vegetables, making it easier to continue practicing healthy eating habits at home. 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.

Please support expanding Hawaii's Farm to School Program.

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:10:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Farm to School supports both local farmers and our keiki's health. Please pass SB2387. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching / Honolulu

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:21:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 21, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SUPPORT for SB2387 SD1**, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211

Respected Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT of SB2387 SD1** 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 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 composting.

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

With more than 85% of Hawai'i youth attending public schools, Farm to School is an ideal program to bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to 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 SB2387 SD1** and respectfully ask you to pass this bill out of committee.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Keaau, HI

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:49:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB 2387.

Lets take control of educating and feeding our keiki organically grown food.

NO GE propaganda please or toxic chemicals please!

We can do a great job educating out keiki and growing wholesome food for them. Educate them with long skills that will provide them with food security and help them malama the 'Aina!

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:16:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Dowd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 8:36:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marcy cayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:45:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erika Lechuga Disalvo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:55:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Kanahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:16:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alex beers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly in favor of SB2387. We need to give our children the best quality food we can. Also, it's very important that this is organic. If it's GMO or sprayed we may be going from the fire into the frying pan.

Thank you,

Alex Beers

Aloha,

I am testifying in support of **SB2387 SD1: Establish Farm to School in the DOE** which would promote healthy eating in schools by establish a farm to school program and positions within the Department of Education. I support that this 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. The health of children should be the number one priority. Obesity and diabetes amongst children is a serious public health issue in Hawaii and should be addressed and prevented to ensure a better quality of life for our keiki.

Best,

Lauren Loor

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:44:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Keolamau Tengan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, SB 2387 strongly believe that education is more than nearly the academic learning memorization of information. I would like to see more programs and focus on integrated practices with agriculture, specifically making readily available resources of the land and how they can best be beneficial to the children of our state

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:51:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Seri Niimi-Burch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:54:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Domizio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I strongly support SB2387 SD1 in its support of a robust Farm-to-School program for Hawaii.

Farm-to school efforts benefit everyone involve; farmers, community and, in this instance, our schools. Healthy, locally grown and supplied fruits and vegetables are a low cost way of improving the health and nutrition of school kids. They also support the farmers in our communities and everyone else involved with these programs.

I strongly urge you to support SB2357 SD1.

Thanks for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Dan Domizio, Pahoia

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:12:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:18:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2387-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:57:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I speak as an individual, but I see the effects taking place at Mililani High, where al currently work. The Farm to School program is becoming relevant and integral in many aspects, particularly with getting students to become aware of their food sourcing and just simply having the desire to eat! Although words such as "Fresh" and "local" might be deemed as just "buzz words," they definitely sell to the students, which provides twofold benefits. Kids are eating more at school, instead of waiting to eat til afterschool (heck, even more teachers are eating) and we are also supporting our local economy of farmers.

Please continue to support programs such as this. Thank you for your consideration.