

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

DOUG CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

LATE

**SENATE BILL NO. 2387, SENATE DRAFT 1
Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

February 23, 2018

Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor appreciates this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Bill No. 2387, Senate Draft 1. The vision of farm to school is to improve the health of schoolchildren and support local agriculture by incorporating fresh, local food into child nutrition programs. Since 2015, my predecessor former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui spearheaded the Hawaii Farm to School Initiative to test whether this vision is achievable for Hawaii. I am proud to continue to work to achieve this vision, now that a team of public and private partners have demonstrated that yes, it is possible but not without some significant changes made by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to its approach to school food, including (at a minimum):

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

This Committee has the opportunity to expand this vision for Hawai'i by formally establishing the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program in the HIDOE with dedicated farm to school staff positions.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

LATE

FOR: SB 2387 SD1 Relating to Hawaii Farm to School Program
DATE: February 23, 2018
TIME: 11:00 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Room 211
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2387 SD1**, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a farm to school program.

The Farm to School program is intended to improve student health, develop an educated agricultural workforce, and expand the relationship between public schools and the agricultural community. The goals and outcomes for this program are especially beneficial to many charter schools who have already established similar programs and ties to their local agriculture community.

The Commission supports this legislation and humbly requests the committee amend this measure to ensure that this program allows for the participation of public charter schools. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, the DOE, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



LATE

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

Date: 02/23/2018
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2387, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: 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. Establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) farm to school staff positions within the department of education. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

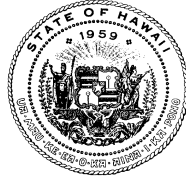
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 2387, SD1 to establish two FTE farm to school staff positions within the DOE. Since this is a priority for the DOE, the Board approved budget included four farm to school positions and \$228,672 and the Governor's budget request in front of the legislature for consideration includes two farm to school positions and \$114,336.

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

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

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2387 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018

Room Number: 211

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

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports Senate Bill 2387 Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 2387
5 SD1). The purpose of this measure is to require the DOE to establish a Farm to School program
6 to be managed by DOE staff and to require the DOE to work with the Farm to School
7 Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to grow and sustain the Hawaii Farm to School
8 program. This measure also provides funding for two full-time positions within the DOE to
9 facilitate the program.

10 Farm to School programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, communities,
11 and farmers. The DOH supports the establishment of a Farm to School program in the DOE to
12 strengthen collaboration between state agencies, expand opportunities for students to participate
13 in farm-based and school garden nutrition education, increase the procurement of locally-grown

1 foods for the school meal program, and potentially increase consumption of fruits and vegetables
2 among youth. These activities align with the prevention strategies of the DOH to reinforce
3 healthy food systems and support youth consumption of fruits and vegetables in order to
4 establish life-long practices that will reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart
5 disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.



LATE

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE BILL NO. 2387, SENATE DRAFT 1
Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program
February 23, 2018**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

The Kohala Center **strongly supports** Senate Bill No. 2387, Senate Draft 1. Through this bill, the Hawai'i State Legislature can make farm to school a clear state priority and empower the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) to implement this important program.

Benefits of Farm to School

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

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

'Aina Pono Farm to School Program – Pilot

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

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

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

'Aina Pono Farm to School Program – Moving Forward

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

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

The following changes are necessary to implement Farm to School:

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

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

Respectfully,



Anna-Lisa Okoye
Chief Operating Officer

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

Enclosure:

'Aina Pono Program Overview



'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program



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

Introduction

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

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

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

Goals

'Aina Pono has four main goals:

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

Implementation

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

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

Phase I: Kohala

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



Local Food Vendors

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

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

Phase 2: Expansion

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

Project Team

Lt. Governor's Advisory Group

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

Funders

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

Executive Committee

Greg Christian

Founder, Beyond Green Sustainable Food Partners

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

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Jayson M. Watts

Senior Advisor, Office of Lieutenant Governor Douglas S. Chin

JAYSON.WATTS@HAWAII.GOV

Photos – Kohala Complex







Photos – Mililani High School





LATE

Date: February 22, 2018
To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2387 SD1
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program
Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00am, Room 211

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2387** which establishes a farm to school program in the Department of Education with two dedicated farm to school positions who will work with the Farm to School Coordinator in the Department of Agriculture to develop and sustain the Hawai'i Farm to School Program.

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. This bill directly addresses one of our school's most pressing needs, coordination of farm to school activities. OFSN is in strong support of this bill.

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



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

LATE

February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2387, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 211
11:00 AM

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

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2387, 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. Establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) farm to school staff positions within the department of education.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak about the challenges of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible, but providing to the entire school system is not. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. We believe that school farms serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology and various technologies including programming, navigation and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of this program. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue the various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, and Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

This should be viewed is an investment in Hawaii's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 23, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: SB 2387, SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2387, SD1, relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School program, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. This measure requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program. It establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the department of education and appropriates funds.

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

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

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

February 23, 2018

LATE

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

RE: SUPPORT SB2387 SD1 RELATING THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

At Blue Zones Project we are working to make Hawaii a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. We support SB2387 SD1, which will help to create healthier eating opportunities, providing access to fresh, locally sourced foods.

The Hawaii Farm to School program was established through Act 218 (2015). Since then many partners have been involved in an effort to successfully sustain and expand the program throughout the state. One of the missing pieces is the dedicated staff positions within the Department of Education to facilitate the collaboration with the existing Farm to School positions within the Department of Agriculture.

Farm to School programs benefit our keiki in a variety of ways. They offer place based learning, lessons in nutrition, exposure new, healthier foods. In school gardens, the program helps to provide a place where our children learn what it means to nurture, grow and share hard work and love. They not only learn to appreciate locally sourced food but their interest in healthier foods is nurtured. This helps them to make healthier choices at home with a hope to influence their families toward healthier choices as well.

These positions will help to ensure the success and expansion of the Hawaii Farm to School Program. Please support this measure to support the well-being of our keiki.

Sincerely,

Cherie Andrade

Cherie Andrade
Community Project Manager
Blue Zones Project—Hawaii

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An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 23, 2018

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

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

Re: **SB 2387, SD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, February 23, 2018, 11:00 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to strongly support SB 2387, SD1, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, requires the DOE to designate a farm to school coordinator to work with the head of the Hawaii farm to school program and the Department of Agriculture, and appropriates funds for two FTE farm to school staff positions.

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

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

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

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



LATE

February 23, 2018

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

Re: SB 2387, SD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2387, SD1, which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program and requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program.

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

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

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice President, Government Relations

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:12:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eve Teeter-Balin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:21:21 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Davison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

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

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Ashley Davison, Mililani High School

Strong Support for SB 2387

Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00AM @ Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2387 which will require the DOE to establish a farm to school program as well as hire two full time staff within the DOE for the program.

I strongly support SB 2387 because of the impact the farm to school initiative has had so far at Mililani High School.

Within the short time it has been here, our school has already begun to see change. The students are eating healthier, made from scratch foods, the local farms are being supported more because instead of shipping in, we're using produce that's grown right down the road. This initiative deserves two people to fully commit to it so that it can be expanded even further. I am on the student body government and within my position, I've been given the chance to see the behind the scenes and to hear the voices of what other students throughout my school have to say about the program. Everything I've learned/heard has only strengthened my belief in farm to school. The students are more excited than ever to eat lunch. Not only that but the parents and students can also be more satisfied by what their child/they themselves are consuming. The amount of processed food is being limited, especially the amount of fruit and vegetables we use to eat from a can. Now it's local pineapple, papaya, lettuce, cucumbers, etc. The farm to school initiative has what it takes to be a statewide program. It had a successful run in Big Island at Kohala High School, thus leading to the want to test it at an even bigger school - Mililani High. Being apart of the second largest school in the state, Chef Greg knew that if this initiative could be done at Mililani, then any school could do it too. But without making it an official program throughout the DOE and hiring official positions, it can get difficult. The support obtained from doing the mentioned will make the entire movement more obtainable and less challenging. It will help the process in pushing every school to eventually use local produce, with food made/prepared that day instead of using frozen food or food shipped in from different countries.

Mahalo,

Ashley Davison, 18

Mililani High School

Mililani

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:32:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Destiny P	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: February 22, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Destiny Perreira, Mililani High School

Re: Strong Support for SB 2387

Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018

11:00 AM

Conference Room 21

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

To whom it may concern,

I would like to start off first by thanking all of those who have put this bill in consideration to be passed, along with giving me the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong

support for Senate Bill 2387. The purpose of this bill is to essentially provide students and schools the opportunity to take further part in the Farm to School Initiative.

As a student and executive board officer of Mililani High School, I have first-hand experience with the farm to school initiative. I, along with many other students believe that this is something that all schools should be able to take part in because it has an immense amount of benefits. Among those benefits include, but are not limited to, having a healthier meal plan available to students, supporting local businesses, promoting more student participation, and educating students on what types of foods they are consuming and where it comes from.

When we officially announced the Farm to School Initiative to the students of Mililani High School, they immediately showed their excitement and displayed how ready they were for this positive change. About all of the students began to participate when Chef Greg () asked for comments and input. Cafeteria meals have been a subject in which students have always expressed their concern for, and now that it is finally being addressed and changed, they are all for it. We have even created a "Senator Task Force" where students have signed up to personally help with and take part in the initiative themselves. These students have helped us to taste test the meals, give advice about the food, and advertise the overall program and its benefits. This is where the beneficial increase of student participation comes in. When the students found out that something they've advocated for so long is finally being worked with, they are willing to fully support and participate in things that help to further the program. If this bill gets passed, schools all across the state will be able to participate as well.

When this bill gets passed, will be an increase in local business support. What this program calls for is healthy food being served to students. Chef Greg invited us to see the kitchen before the implementation of the program and explained to the students how and why this change needs to happen. And, as a matter of fact, on February 21, 2018, he showed us the local foods that were part of our meal on that day. So far we have used local banana, papaya, teri beef, lettuce, zucchini, broccoli, and edamame, along with our usual homemade bread. These foods came from places such as Mari's Gardens, Sugar Land Farms, and a few others. And boy can we taste a difference. By purchasing from our local farms and gardens, we are economically supporting our people and helping them succeed in their business. We are also being agriculturally independent rather than relying on the mainland.

In conclusion, I strongly support the passing of this bill, and I really hope that others take value in how important this movement is in the lives of not only students, but the community and state of Hawaii as a whole. I have first-hand experience with how amazing this Farm to School Initiative is and all of the benefits that it comes with, and I really hope that the rest of our 'aina will be able to take part in this program as well.

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:26:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriella Moline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I 100% support this bill. Thank you for allowing the keiki of Hawaii to grow up with honor and dignity. Mahalo Gabriella Moline

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:46:52 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Autumn Ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a no-brainer. The food served at our schools does a dis-service to the students and our local farmers.

Please pass this.

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:37:25 PM

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

LATE

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

Comments:

As an employee of the Kokua Hawaii Foundation I have been fortunate to work with schools participating in the Farm to School program. I have seen nothing but success in the form of thousands of pounds of local food on lunch plates, and smiling, enthusiastic students. This program deserves all the policy, administrative, and financial support it can get. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:08:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Mader	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha chair and committee,

Yes, yes, yes! We need more farm to school programs! Mahalo for supporting SB2387 SD1

Aloha,

Deborah Mader

Kihei, HI

LATE

SB-2387-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:11:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekai Quartero	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:



Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

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

Hrg: February 23, 2018 at 11:00am at Capitol Room 211
I strongly support 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 healthy eating habits for our keiki both in school and at home. Through Farm to School, students develop a rich understanding and appreciation for improving nutrition and the environment. Establishing Farm to School within the DOE will allow our public school students to work on school gardens, learn about different fruits and vegetables, and the importance of reducing waste through successful composting.

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

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

Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support SB2387 SD1 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

John Ishoda	Dennis Miller	Nichele Nihipali	Tenaya Jackman
Wes Freuler	Theresa Brown	Bryan Mih	annette davidsson