



Date: February 6, 2018

To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

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

Hrg: February 7, 2018 at 2:45pm at Conference Room 229

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

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

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

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

Strong public support for Farm to School

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

Dedicated Farm to School staff are required for statewide expansion

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

hiphi.org • 850 Richards Street, suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

- 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 dailyⁱⁱⁱ. Successful Farm to School programs can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic achievement and behavior.

SB 2387 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

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

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

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

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



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 - 2:45 PM – Room 229

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

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kahele and Riviere and Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

EDU Testimony

From: kristenmartinek@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kristen Martinek
<kristenmartinek@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:37 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Education

Hrg: February 7, 2018 at 2:45pm at Conference Room 229 I strongly support SB2387 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 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kristen Martinek
Madison, WI 53703

EDU Testimony

From: mamantiaspa@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of nia lovell
<mamantiaspa@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:00 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

Sincerely,
nia lovell
75 -6081 Alii Dr Apt QQ102 Kailua Kona, HI 96740-4360



February 7, 2018

RE: SUPPORT SB2387 RELATING THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Kidani, & Members of the Committees:

At Blue Zones Project we are working to make Hawaii a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. We support SB2387, 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

Blue Zones Project – Koolaupoko
Community Program Manager

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Date: February 6, 2018
To: SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2387
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program
Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 2:45pm, Room 229

Dear Members of the Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture & Environment,

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

SB-2387

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:30:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Kokua Hawaii Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

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

FOR: SB 2387 Relating to Hawaii Farm to School Program
DATE: February 7, 2018
TIME: 2:45 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education and Committee on Agriculture and Environment
ROOM: Room 229
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Kidani, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2387**, which authorizes 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 ties to their local agriculture community.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 2:45pm
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Education

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

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

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 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 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.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture & Environment

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: February 7, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E nā Luna Ho'omalū Kidani a me Gabbard, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kahele a me Riviere, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia mau Kōmike 'elua, 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, relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School program which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. This measure requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program. It establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the department of education and appropriates funds.

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

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

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

EDU Testimony

From: jmenmo@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tanya Roland
<jmenmo@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:26 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
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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 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Tanya Roland
Falls Church, VA 22042

EDU Testimony

From: mcaroll@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melinda Caroll
<mcaroll@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:39 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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Sincerely,
Melinda Caroll
Kula, HI 96790

EDU Testimony

From: zaffbryan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Noel Bobilin
<zaffbryan@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:52 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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Sincerely,
Noel Bobilin
Volcano, HI 96785

EDU Testimony

From: joyousrose@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joy Catullo
<joyousrose@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 2:10 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
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Sincerely,
Joy Catullo
Wailuku, HI 96793

EDU Testimony

From: dmazurik808@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Denise Mazurik <dmazurik808@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:06 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

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The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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Sincerely,
Denise Mazurik
Hilo, HI 96720

EDU Testimony

From: markmaz8799@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Mazurik <markmaz8799@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 7:26 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
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Sincerely,
Mark Mazurik
Hilo, HI 96720

EDU Testimony

From: kristendmyer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kristen Bento
<kristendmyer@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 7:36 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
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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 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Kristen Bento
Hilo, HI 96720

EDU Testimony

From: tahtinala@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christina Minthorn
<tahtinala@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 7:49 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Education

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

Sincerely,
Christina Minthorn
Hakalau, HI 96710

EDU Testimony

From: farm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sarah Freeman
<farm@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:18 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Strong Support for SB2387, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

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The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
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Passage of this measure will improve our keiki's health and local food systems. I strongly support SB2387 and ask you to pass this out of committee.

Sincerely,
Sarah Freeman
Kapaau, HI 96755