

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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

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. 2928 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. 2928 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to support and sustain the progress of the Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget..

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

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



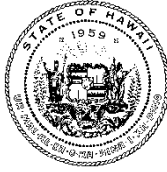
Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities committed to increasing local food production, and it is apparent that Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for our schools need assistance to comply with the prerequisite purchasing demands of state contracting.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)

TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

February 23, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

SENATE BILL 2928, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2928, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill and offers the following comments:

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

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

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

Thank you.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

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

SB 2928 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

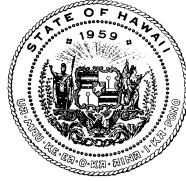
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2928 SD1.

Section 1. We concur with the listed reasons in SB 2928 SD1 that describe how farm to school programs are beneficial to the education and health of students. A further advantage of farm to school programs is the assurance of a specific and sustained market for locally grown products that the school system represents. We also concur that food safety issues are important criteria that are necessary for products grown for farm to school programs, and that farmers likely require assistance to understand and comply with these standards. We further support the introduction of a grant pilot program.

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2928 SD1 with the caveat that it does not affect and is in addition to the UH budget request.



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

Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2928 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) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill
2 2928 Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 2928 SD1), but respectfully defers to the Department of Agriculture
3 (DOA) regarding implementation of the measure and to the priorities set forth in the Governor's
4 Supplemental Budget Request.

5 S.B. 2928 SD1 appropriates general funds to the DOA in the amount of \$1,000,000 for
6 the three-year farm to school grant pilot program for FY 2018-2019, and unspecified amounts for
7 the continuance of the Hawai'i farm to school program.

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

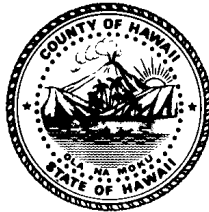
12 The DOH supports the continuance of the farm to school program in the DOA and looks
13 forward to collaborating on the development of a farm to school grant pilot program. Farm to
14 school programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and

1 farmers. These programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between our state
2 agencies, improve access to healthy food options in schools, and increase consumption of fruits
3 and vegetables among youth. Farm to school programs align with the DOH prevention strategies
4 to reinforce healthy food systems and help students to establish life-long practices that will
5 reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure,
6 and some cancers.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



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(808) 887-2069

Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water & Energy

Vice Chair: Committee on
Environmental Management

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
District 9

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 22, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Support of SB2928 SD1

Hearing Date/Time: February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2928 SD1**, which establishes and appropriates funds for a farm to school grant pilot program within the Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools and fund a coordinator position who will provide a status report to legislature.

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is significant to the future of agriculture in Hawai'i as well as providing an educational experience to our youth on how healthy food can be grown in their communities. The investment in providing locally grown food to our schools does not only provide healthy alternatives, but can potentially glean future farmers toward one of our biggest economic drivers for the State of Hawai'i. I therefore strongly urge the enactment of SB2928 SD1.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Richards", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

TIM RICHARDS

Hawai'i County Council, District 9



Email: communications@ulupono.com

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

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2928 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 2928 SD 1, which establishes a farm to school grant program and a continuation of the Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

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

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

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

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

February 22, 2018



RE: SB2928 WAM Hearing February 23, 2018

The Honorable, Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

The Honorable , Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran & Members of the WAM Committee

Maui School Garden Network - Member, Hawaii State Farm to School Hui

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of SB2928 which *establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawai'i department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program.*

For the past ten years the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has worked in collaboration with our members representing DOH, DOE, and DOA on a number of shared initiatives. Of particular importance is the statewide movement to expand procurement of local foods for our children's school meals. With the addition of the Farm to School Coordinator within the Department of Agriculture, we have helped to establish that vital link between procurement, distribution, and our state food producers. We have done this with a cost to government of only 1/6 of the total expenditures required since we have supplemented with funding from donations, grants, and fund raisers as well as countless hours of pro bono work. We have supported the creation of pilot projects within select schools, the latest of which is Mililani High School, that are indicating we can source more food locally (Harvest of the Month) with less waste and at affordable prices.

The time has come to give our Farm to School program within DOA a chance to help our food producers make the necessary transition to establishment larger, secure local markets, particularly within the DOE but this bill, as it should, also targets early children education groups as well as our seniors. The mini grants program is the most fiscally responsible program to achieve our goals since it gets at the grass roots of that is happening on each island and collectivizes for the whole. SB 2928 combined with SB 2387 with more support for DOE procurement operations is the way we need to go. Ten years of working at this through partner collaboration has taught us these lessons.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lehn Huff, MSGN Director, PO Box 458, Haiku, Maui, Hawaii 96708



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 2928, 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. 2928, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

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

- (5) Require the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the Departments of Education and Health and other farm to school stakeholders to adopt rules to implement the farm to program;
- (6) Direct the Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator to report to the 2021 Legislature on the value and outcome of the program;
- (7) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for DOA to provide grants to recipients of the program;
- (8) Appropriate blank amounts for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the hiring of one full-time equivalent farm to school coordinator position, and for administrative expenses; and
- (9) Provide that the Act take effect on July 1, 2018, and sunset on June 30, 2021.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

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.



**American Heart Association in SUPPORT of SB 2928, SD1
“Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”**

The American Heart Association (AHA) supports SB 2928, 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 four 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 AHA recommends eating eight or more fruit and vegetable servings every day. An average adult consuming 2,000 calories daily should aim for 4.5 cups of fruits and vegetables a day. Also, variety matters, so it's important to eat a wide range of fruits and veggies.

Teaching our keiki from a young age the value of healthy, fresh, and local foods can establish in them healthier eating habits that will continue through their lifespan. The American Heart Association encourages legislators to support SB 2928, SD1 with the originally recommended funding amounts.

Respectfully submitted,

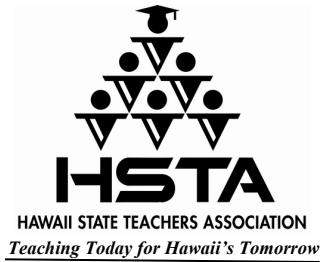
Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

*“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.





1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

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 2928 SD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

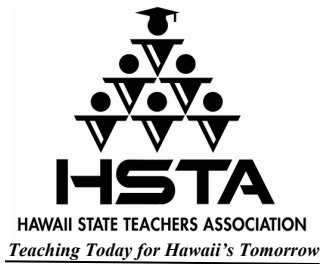
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2928 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 (e.g., vertical farming, aquaponics, organic farming etc.)



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Executive Director

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.



**HUI MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS:**

Farm to Keiki
(Preschool/ECE)

FoodCorps Hawai'i

Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools
(HAIS)

'Iolani School/O'ahu Farm
to School Network

Kamehameha Schools

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens
of Waimea Middle School

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i
School Garden Network

Maui School Garden
Network

Pacific Resources for
Education and Learning
(PREL)

Sustainable Molokai/
Molokai School Garden
Network

The Kohala Center/Hawai'i
Island School Garden
Network

Date: February 23, 2018

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

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

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2928 SD1
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2928 SD1**, which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and makes appropriations for the continuance of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and coordinator position in HDOA.

Sustaining the momentum

The establishment of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and coordinator position in HDOA via Act 218 in 2015 represented a major increase in capacity for Hawaii's farm to school movement. SB2928 SD1 provides critical support to HDOA for the continuation of this important program in order to build on the momentum gained thus far toward:

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

A vital investment for our state

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

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

Local investment to date

Hawaii's farm to school movement has experienced steady growth over the last decade, thanks largely to a significant investment of resources by the private sector. Not including funds invested in the Hawai'i Department of Education's (HIDOE) 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program, it is conservatively estimated that over \$6.5 million was invested from 2007-2017 in developing school-level farm to school programs in Hawai'i and strengthening the statewide movement, with eighty four percent (84%) or \$5.5 million from private sources, and sixteen percent (16%) or \$1 million from public sources, including approximately \$791,300 invested by our state government since 2007.³

Foundation of success through quality school-level programs

Today, eighty eight percent (88%) or 225 of Hawaii's 256 K-12 public non-charter schools have gardens, which range in their levels of quality, teacher and student involvement, and curricular integration.⁴ These programs range in size from individual planter boxes to large-scale school food farms and may or may not have a dedicated, trained, paid garden educator to support them. While exciting improvements in the quality of school food are on the horizon through the expansion of HIDOE's 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program, it is important to note that the full benefits of farm to school are only realized when high quality, well-rounded programs are in place, which include school gardens and relevant educational opportunities for all students (e.g. nutrition, culinary, agriculture, food systems education).² A farm to school grant program for Hawai'i is essential to the development and sustainability of successful school-level farm to school programs that provide a direct benefit to students and communities while ultimately ensuring the long term success of state-level farm to school efforts.

Model farm to school grant programs

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

SB2928 SD1 provides essential state-level support for expanding farm to school in Hawai'i. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Me Ke Aloha,



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

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

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

² National Farm to School Network, *The Benefits of Farm to School* (Apr 2017)

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

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

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

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

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2928, 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 SB2928**, which will create a farm to school grant pilot program in the Department of Agriculture and make appropriations for continuance of the Hawai'i farm to school program and coordinator position.

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. 'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes a standards-based nutrition, garden, and compost curriculum that empowers children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. 'ĀINA In Schools also promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demonstrations in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities for families and community members. We work directly with 23 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 472 educators from over 239 schools and organizations from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

We also administer two grant programs: Environmental Field Trips and Environmental Education Mini-Grants. These are awarded to Hawai'i schools for a maximum of \$1,000 per school year for each grant. Over the years, we have seen a huge need for 1) additional support for farm to school projects, 2) grants exceeding \$1,000 to support larger, more long-term projects and 3) the ability to fund schools as well as other organizations that support farm to school initiatives. **SB2928's farm to school grant pilot program can help to fill this important need.**

We advocated for and are pleased to see the Department of Agriculture's Farm to School program grow. This program and the grant making pilot will help 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. It will also contribute to sustainability and self sufficiency goals of increasing local food production as outlined in the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative.

With more than 85 percent of Hawai'i youth attending public schools, Farm to School can 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 Department of Agriculture to further implement Farm to School in Hawai'i. We strongly urge you to vote in support of SB2928.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, Vice-President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Natalie McKinney,
Executive Director

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





THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

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NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

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

Updated April 2017

What is Farm to School?

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

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

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

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

Why Farm to School?



KIDS WIN

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



FARMERS WIN

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



COMMUNITIES WIN

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

Benefits of Farm to School



**Economic
Development**



**Public
Health**



Education



Environment



**Community
Engagement**

Economic Development

Job Creation and Economic Activity

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

Farmer and Producer Income

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

Public Health

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

Student Nutrition Behaviors

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



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

Knowledge, Attitudes and Access

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

Education

Student Engagement and Academic Achievement

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

Educator and Parent Engagement

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



Environment

Food Waste

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

Sustainability




































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

Community Engagement

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



Summary of Farm to School Benefits

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

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2018 – 11:00 AM – Room 211

**RE: SB 2928 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 2928 SD1, which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

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

The \$1,300,000 appropriations request is critical to supporting and sustaining the progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program.

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

We respectfully request your support of SB 2928 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
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-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:31:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Testifying for Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:41:24 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.

For the last 3 years, we have not been able to expand our program to new schools. The cost and work involved in starting a new garden program is significant; our staff is already spread thin, most supporting 6-8 classes per day at 2-3 schools per week.

This proposed program, would enable us, schools themselves and other to start garden programs. Many people assume that we teach gardening and think "how sweet". The truth is we are teaching critical life skills as well as providing and outdoor classroom for science, math, nutrition and more.

Programs like providing mini-grants really help schools get a program off the ground. We've seen it. The farm to school movement is growing.

The statewide hui has existed; it is now reaching out to other key components and providing networking and guidance across the state. Continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position is critical to this growth.

Mahalo.

Kathy Becklin

Executive Director, Grow Some Good

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:32:33 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	No

Comments:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

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

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be heard as a part of our democracy.

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.

I am writing in strong support of SB2928 which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

The establishment of a Farm to School Coordinator position in 2015 has helped this movement to build momentum. During the past 2 years we have:

- Increased the procurement of locally-grown foods for school meals
- Strengthened agriculture education for the development of future farmers (of Hawaii-West Oahu has recently been rated one of the top schools for sustainable agriculture)
- Collected comprehensive data via the Hawai'i Farm to School Census
- Developed and Ensured food safety practices on farms and in schools

- Begun building inter-agency collaboration and nurturing public-private partnerships (Mā• la'ai is such a partnership)

A State-wide Farm to school movement has wide-reaching positive impacts from economic development, public health, agriculture, education, and the environment, to community engagement, and growing our capacity as a state to be self-sustaining.

Securing funding to continue this Farm to School Coordinator position will further this cause and build on the momentum which already exists.

As a nonprofit working in partnership Waimea Middle School, we at Mā• la'ai have brought over \$2million of programming and services to the students and community at our school since we began our work in 2005. Waimea Middle School is a Title1 school. In the past 2 years, we have seen the highest number of students living at or near the national poverty level since we began our work over a decade ago (68%-71%). We know that these are the most vulnerable children in our community, impacted by food insecurity and housing insecurity among other things. Our work is rooted in agriculture-based, and garden-based educational activities. We host all the students in the school for Science, PE, Health, BPA (like Home ec.) and Ike Hawaii classes. We also lead an afterschool "STEM in the Garden" program. We work with teachers to develop hands-on, real-world Science lessons for all of our students. We provide them with opportunities to learn about and practice Hawaiian culture and we teach them to use their senses to learn from nature. We also give every student in every garden a class a fresh healthy snack. (Last year we served over 6000 snacks.) Our teachers, community, and students have all been very responsive to our work which has enabled us to continue and refine our program. We also are dedicated to growing the movement by providing professional development for teachers and school gardeners. We work closely with The Hawaii Island School Garden Network and the Kohala Center to do this work.

We would applaud the opportunity to work with the partnership and support of the Department of Agriculture to this end.

Please support SB2928 and allow this work to take root and grow for the benefit of all of us, the land, our children and our future.

Hope to see you in the Garden,

Amanda Rieux

Program Director, Garden Founder

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

POB 543, Kamuela HI 96743

(808)640-3637

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:23:51 AM

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

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:36:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

For many years, I was fortunate to administer a grant program to public and charter schools on Hawai'i Island through The Kohala Center, that helped schools start, build, maintain, or hire an educator for their school gardens. This incentive helped support school garden education, healthy eating, nutritional education, and environmental education. Watching these programs blossom year after year taught me that these kinds of grant programs really matter. The DOE can't always help schools get programs started, but support from the Legislature through the DOA could make a huge difference in building and supporting the amazing momentum that is happening in Hawai'i right now around Farm to School. This is the year for this program. Mahalo.

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:08:04 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a Hawai'i resident of 40 years, and a teacher and mother, I fully support establishing a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. This ability to anchor the Farm to School Movement in Hawaii with a farm to school coordinator who will submit a report to the legislature, along with appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school programs with a coordinator position, helps insure the health and welfare of our children and food security for our islands.

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:52:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arielle Simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:29:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
greg martino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Obviously full of merit

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:37:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Reid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Farm to School bill benefits our state by:

- Improving health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Enhancing educational opportunities and improving student success
- Strengthening our agricultural sector by growing future farmers and the demand for locally grown foods

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 2:39:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:40:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:42:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:57:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:32:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 5:15:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tasia Y	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou-

I am writing in strong support of SB2928 to continue to fund the Farm-to-School program and coordinator within the DOA.

I have taught as a garden educator for students k-university for 5+ years now and can attest to the multitudinous benefits of experiential, place/project-based, culturally-appropriate education within the garden that is linked to DOE standards. From helping students with behavioral issues to seeing students more inclined to eat fresh produce because they've grown it, Farm-to-School is an important program. All students have different learning styles; not all students thrive in the indoor classroom. Supplementing curriculum taught indoors with complimentary curriculum outdoors maximizes the number of students who are able to understand academic concepts.

Particularly in light of climate change, we need to be teaching our keiki how to be good stewards of this 'Āina. Farm-to-School programs are like killing two birds with one stone, so to speak. Students are able to learn academic concepts in a hands-on way while also learning how to take care of plants, how to grow and eat healthy foods, how we are all interconnected on this planet, how to work together. We are teaching students to be well-rounded, compassionate human beings.

Our keiki really are our future. I strongly urge you to support SB2928 for their sake. Mahalo nui for taking this testimony into consideration.

Tasia Yamamura

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:19:39 PM

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

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:54:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB 2928 SD1.

Supporting schools to educate their students in organic food production techniques is vital to their physical, emotional and mental health. Enhances our food security too.

Our students need to know how to grow food without toxic chemicals and how to malama the 'Aina.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:57:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Kanahale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:06:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:46:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:20:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alex beers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly in favor of fresh fruits and vegetables for our children. We should be giving our kids the best possible food we can. It is also EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that this program be organic, non GMO or we may be going from the fire into the frying pan.

Thank you,

Alex Beers

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:52:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seri Niimi-Burch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:59:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Rosen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2928 because it will help to educate our community and keiki on food security and sustainability and the importance of eating locally grown food. I work as the Garden Coordinator at Kailua Intermediate School and see first hand the pride and excitement on the students faces when harvesting and tasting their crops. The staff is supportive of the program and every one would love to see more food being grown and share but we need funding to expand our program.

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:13:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:59:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to continue to grow this awesome program, and grant funding will obviously help it do so. This will also ensure accountability between the program and the legislature.