



**LATE**

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

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

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2928, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes and appropriates funds for 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 an appropriation for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position. Repeals on 6/30/2021. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of SB 2928, SD1. The DOE believes that being able to provide grants to educational institutions will help to strengthen student connections to the aina and will help to enhance STEM opportunities for students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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

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KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 23, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: **SB 2928, SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

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

We are writing to **support** SB 2928, SD1, relating to the Hawaii 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 appreciate that public charter schools are expressly included in this measure.

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

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



Date: February 22, 2018  
To: The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture  
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network  
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2928 SD1  
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program  
Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018, 11:00am, Room 211

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing in **strong support of SB2928 SD1** which establishes a farm to school grant pilot program and makes appropriations for the continuance of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Founded in 2012 and coordinated through 'Iolani School and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), OFSN works to strengthen and connect farm to school programs on O'ahu by building the network of service providers and producing professional development and policy advocacy opportunities for stakeholders. For the public and charter schools on Oahu served by OFSN, the greatest need is often access to resources to implement a successful, safe farm to school program at an individual school. Learning gardens require dedicated educators, passionate family and community members but also the financial means to purchase the necessary tools and supplies to build and sustain a successful garden program. In addition, there are limited available funding opportunities to support school gardens leaving most schools to request donations or fundraise from their own families. Appropriations made by SB2928 would allow for schools to articulate and request funding for their most pressing needs.

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

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

Mahalo,

*Debbie S. Millikan*

Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network

**LATE**

**SB-2928-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:11:54 AM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eve Teeter-Balin    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2928. The financial investment that we make now in developing healthy diets for our keiki will save money downstream in health costs. This is an investment in the health of Hawai'i.

**LATE**

**SB-2928-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:15:18 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lindsey whitcomb    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Mahalo for your time, senators. I would like to voice my support for this measure. I feel it is very important to develop programs to teach our keiki to have a relationship w the 'aina and learn about where our food comes from, the importance of cultivating and restoring our land and related nutritional issues. If, in the future, we are to grow a healthier population less reliant on processed foods and more informed about sustainability, & also become more food independent in our island chain, there needs to be a paradigm shift in the way we approach agricultural education in our community, and that needs to begin as soon as possible. Developing a grant program in the farm to school program will allow for an innovative, multi-faceted approach to reaching & teaching our community, which will help discover the most effective way to reach the targeted population & achieve success.

**LATE**

**SB-2928-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 12:20:14 PM

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Delos Reyes | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of SB2928 which establishes and appropriates funds for 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 an appropriation for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.**

**I strongly support SB2928 because of the impact it's already made at my school, Mililani High.**

**I have been in the student body council here for two years now. Last year, I got to see my peers share their voice through a program called Raising Student Voice and Participation (RSVP), which we did through our Senate. Through RSVP, we learned more about what our students like and would want to change about our school and our community. There were issues they had with our lunch, and it's been that way for a while. Time and time again, we're always told that lunch is one of the things we can't change, but things are different now. In the middle of this year, I became the new Senate Chairperson, and the Farm to School Initiative wanted the voice of our senators. I got the chance to have Chef Greg and other people, who've helped make this program a reality for us, speak at our meeting and answer any questions our students had. They were excited knowing that change was coming.**

**Personally, I loved the fact that voicing our opinions as students made a difference. Something that we thought was impossible, was actually possible, and we couldn't be any happier. The people from this initiative always take into account what students have to say about their lunch. They view us as the consumers, and they want us to feel like we can take ownership over what we eat.**

**This bill would be a tool in allowing other schools to experience what my school has been experiencing in these past few months. They would be able to have the same excitement about what the next lunch would be, and overall have more positive encounters in the cafeteria.**

**Mahalo,**

**Jessica Delos Reyes, 17**

**Mililani High School**

**Mililani**

**LATE**

**SB-2928-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:49:08 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Autumn Ness         | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

I am in strong support. Any grant monies will have the compounding effect of helping our kids eat better at school, giving them the building blocks they need to succeed, AND will benefit our local agriculture economy.

Mahalo.



**SB-2928-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:59:39 PM

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

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Milholen   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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