

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

March 14, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

SENATE BILL 2928, SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2928, SD2. 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2928 SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2928 SD2. 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

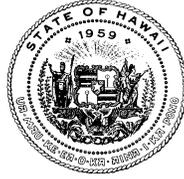


Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities committed to increasing local food production, and it is apparent that Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for our schools need assistance to comply with the prerequisite purchasing demands of state contracting.

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.



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 SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Hearing Date: March 14, 2018

Room Number: 312

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill
2 2928 Senate Draft 2 (S.B. 2928 SD2), 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 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this Act is to support and sustain the progress of the
6 Hawaii Farm to School program in the DOA, establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot
7 program, and assist farmers and ranchers in acquiring Good Agricultural Practices certifications
8 from the United States Department of Agriculture. This bill would also require the DOA farm to
9 school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature.

10 The DOH supports the continuance of the Farm to School program in the DOA and looks
11 forward to collaborating on the development of a Farm to School grant pilot program. Farm to
12 school programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and
13 farmers. These programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between state agencies,
14 improve access to healthy food options in schools, and increase consumption of fruits and
15 vegetables among youth. Farm to school programs align with the DOH prevention strategies to

1 reinforce healthy food systems and help students to establish life-long practices that will reduce
2 the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and
3 some cancers.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None.



American Heart Association in SUPPORT of SB 2928, SD2 “Relating to the Hawaii Farm To School Program”

The American Heart Association (AHA) supports SB 2928, SD2 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. And they are naturally low in saturated fat and calories. The American Heart Association recommends eating eight or more fruit and vegetable servings every day. An average adult consuming 2,000 calories daily should aim for 4.5 cups of fruits and vegetables a day. Also, it's important to eat a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

Food insecurity prevents many of Hawaii's most vulnerable residents from having access to those healthy food options. Thirteen percent of Hawaii's population is food insecure, meaning that there is not enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Also, Hawaii's food costs are 61 percent higher than the rest of the U.S. Part of the reason for that is that our state imports as much as 85-90 percent of its food. That is compounded by the island's 2,500-mile geographic isolation from its food supply. We must take steps to produce more healthful food close to home for community food access and security.

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free of cardiovascular
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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





Finally, 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, SD2 with the originally recommended funding amounts, and any additional funding needed to effectively meet the requirements/programs added to the original bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

*"Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.





Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 — 8:30 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2928 SD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 2928, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 2, 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 venders;
- (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;

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2928, Senate Draft 2

Wednesday, March 14, 2018; 8:30 a.m.

Page 2

- (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 a blank amount of general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for DOA to provide grants to recipients of the program;
- (8) Appropriate blank amounts of general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the hiring of one full-time equivalent farm to school coordinator position, and for administrative expenses;
- (9) Appropriate a blank amount of general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to assist farmers and ranchers acquire good agricultural practice certifications from the United States Department of Agriculture; and
- (10) Provide that the Act take effect on July 1, 2050, 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.

SB-2928-SD-2

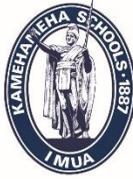
Submitted on: 3/10/2018 11:24:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

We continue to support this measure.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Agriculture

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: March 14, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 312

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

RE: SB 2928, SD2, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Creagan, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua DeCoite, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Mahi'ai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, 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, SD2, relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School program, which establishes and appropriates funds for 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 Hawai'i farm to school program. This measure requires the Hawai'i farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature and makes appropriations to continue the Hawai'i farm to school program and coordinator position and to assist farmers and ranchers achieve Good Agricultural Practices Certification from the United States Department of Agriculture.

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

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 7:22:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaui Trainer	Momilani Farm	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of this bill because it creates a stronger bridge between farmers and schools. We need more farm to school programs, with resources for staff, greenhouses, restorative and regenerative agriculture techniques and partnerships for locally grown foods to come into schools. Students need to know where their food comes from and who is growing it! They should be growing food for their own cafeterias! Back in the day, Molokai Highschool supplied all of its food and milk for its students. This was a part of their agriculture program. Students came in early to work, care for animals and harvest. Their products then fed their school population. What better way to teach the rising generations of the law of the harvest: you reap what you sow. We need more students involved in farming experiences. We also need more administrative support for farm programs so that food can be eaten in cafeterias or be sold to communities. School farms can be a source of fundraising for class activities. CTE ag classes can prepare students for working in the agriculture industry. Please support the passing of this bill.

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 at 8:30am
Conference Room 229

House Committee on Agriculture

To: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2928 SD 2 – Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs 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 support of SB 2928 SD 2 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; and makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii Farm To School Program and Coordinator position.

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 2928 SD 2 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 support of SB 2928 SD 2.

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 5:32:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Datta	Hawaii Farmers Union United Kona Chapter	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:36:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalani Matsumura	UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources	Support	No

Comments:

As a junior extension agent with the UH Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), I am committed to supporting teachers, students, schools, and members of the Hawaii Farm to School Hui to increase and improve farm to school and school garden education programs. Along with many of my fellow faculty in CTAHR, we provide research-based information and help with one-on-one consultations, site visits, websites, publications, training workshops (some including professional development credits), curriculum, youth education, volunteer projects, Master Gardeners, demonstration gardens, field days at our facilities, and other outreach events. We support F2S because we understand the many benefits which I am sure other supporters have written about.

I support this bill because I believe it will greatly increase and improve farm to school programs in Hawaii. It will allow me and other CTAHR faculty to make a greater impact with our teachers and children, to educate more people about agriculture and environment. F2S education can help us achieve our goals to take better care of our environment and natural resources, improve our economy, our health, and our quality of life, and increase our skilled workforce in green technology, agriculture, and natural resources management.

Aloha, Kalani



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: March 12, 2018

To: The Honorable Richard Creagan, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

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

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2928 SD2
Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Hearing: March 14, 2018 at 8:30am in Conference Room 312

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2928 SD2**, 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 SD2 provides critical support to the 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 SD2 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 SD2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair; Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

March 14, 2018 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Aloha Senators,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY supports SB2928 SD2**, 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 SD2'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 SD2.

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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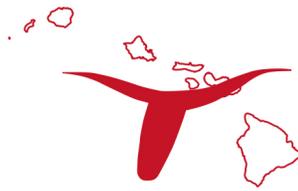
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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 2018
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

SB 2928 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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 appropriations to continue the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position and to assist farmers and ranchers achieve Good Agricultural Practices Certification from the United States Department of Agriculture. Repeals on 6/30/2021. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

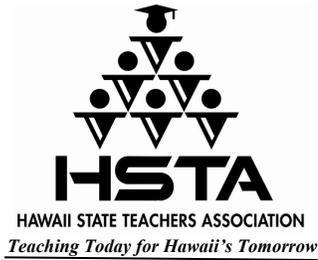
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** SB 2928 SD2 as this measure provides a truly beneficial relationship with all parties.

As the first agricultural product to be featured by the Department of Agriculture, the beef industry has seen the results of the Hawaii Farm to School Program first hand. Locally raised ground beef was chosen as the first Aina Pono Harvest of the Month program where 18,000 lbs. of beef were used in the school lunch program across the state in December.

The Department of Education (DOE) is the largest restaurant in the state as they serve approximately 100,000 meals each day. While ranchers, processors and distributors are able to sell their higher value cuts at a profit, they often have a surplus of high-quality ground beef and stew meat left to sell. The DOE only uses ground beef and stew meat in their meals and as such have begun to purchase these cuts of beef from local sources. This is truly a win-win for all parties.

We respectfully ask this committee to strongly support this measure and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.





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Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

RE: SB 2928 SD2 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL
PROGRAM.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

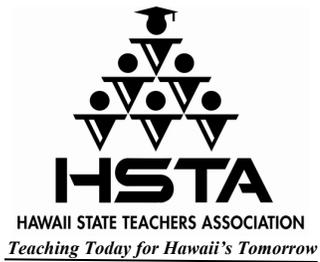
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2928 SD2**, 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, place-based experiences for our students to understand agriculture, livestock, 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



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students in agriculture (e.g., vertical farming, aquaponics, organic farming etc.)

Passage of this bill would provide funding for a three year pilot project that not only helps coordinators within the DOE to work with the agricultural community, but also provides for professional development costs, field trips, etc. that will help to provide teachers with the knowledge they need to incorporate agricultural career paths into their curriculum using school gardens, local farms, livestock, 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.

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:29:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2928 SD2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM SCHOOL PROGRAM
TO

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on

Agriculture:

Good morning,

my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2928 SD2**, relating to Agriculture; DOA; Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Grant Pilot Program; and an Appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2928 SD2** and support its passage.

SB2928 SD2 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it 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; and makes appropriations to continue the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position and to assist farmers and ranchers achieve Good Agricultural Practices Certification from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments. (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 296-302 (2016)). We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-314 (2016)). Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78 (2016)). This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 82-86 (2016)). As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)). We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural

diversification and value-added products. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 104-107 (2016)).

Given that **SB2928 SD2** 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; and makes appropriations to continue the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position and to assist farmers and ranchers achieve Good Agricultural Practices Certification from the United States Department of Agriculture, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind

consideration.

yours,

/Melodie

Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Sincerely

/s

Mel

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com,



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Debora Halbert
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2928 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2928 SD2 with comments.

Section 1. We continue to concur with the listed reasons in SB 2928 SD2 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 continue to 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 and receive GAP certification. We continue to support the introduction of a grant pilot program.

Section 2. We continue to support the details in this section. We suggest that the Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service be included in 2a, the section that describes the entities that can apply for grants, as this organization is a major source of training for GAP certification and food safety for producers.

We also continue to suggest that an important criterion for awarding grants be that the agricultural operation from which food is purchased be shown to be of a sufficient scale to be a commercially viable operation that is able to provide safe, sustained delivery of product. Including this provision will assure that the limited grant funds are not going to operations that are too small to support the food safety costs and that will not be a longer-term player in this program.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support with comments on SB 2928 SD2.

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 11:42:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

-

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:20:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
irene plunkett	HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2928. We need to have these types of programs supported for our farms to school programs. We must support our local economy and assist farmers who want and have the means to grow local, healthy and create a prosperous agriculture future for Hawai'i. Why are we importing 80-90 % of our food? We must secure our food systems chain for our children and Hawai'i. We have a voice and a choice. Thank you kindly.

Mahalo, Irene Plunkett

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 11:54:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

Great program!

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 12:59:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant Wolf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill which is for the Hawaii farm to school system because I think that is an excellent way for Hawai'i youths and younger generations to get involved with such things as farming and agriculture which is necessary for our substance here on these islands. Furthermore, when Lahainaluna high school was a boarding high school a lot of people came here to Maui from the outer islands to learn how to farm including my grandpa and great uncle. It would seem only natural that we give all that we can to the land and water and maintain it properly for cultivation of crops for harvesting and making beneficial changes here on our islands. I am all for it.

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 3:19:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tricia Morris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 3:36:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 3:46:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 3:51:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:37:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:47:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:57:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 5:55:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Need to provide these funds for this pilot program

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 8:35:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christopher buehler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 9:00:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Harley Simmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 8:04:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Aloï	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 8:59:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Greenleaf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 9:45:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 3:58:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Stillings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 6:27:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:55:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lindsey whitcomb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite & Representatives of the AGR Committee. Mahalo for your time. I would like to voice my support for SB2928. 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 a multi-faceted approach to reaching & teaching our community, which will help discover the most effective way to reach the targeted population & achieve success.

Mahalo

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:49:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebeca Zamora	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:44:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:56:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill can wean us from our dangerous dependence on the mainland. We need this!

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:17:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:02:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 5:18:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan chouljian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:21:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jann Boxold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:24:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Boxold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:36:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

The many benefits of a farm to school program have been enumerated in SB2928SD1:

- Provides students with agricultural education, improving attendance, academic achievement, and behavior
- Increases opportunities for place-based experiential learning, physical activity, and active participation in the school meal program
- Supports a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices
- Increases students' familiarity with local foods and their access to fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as increases the likelihood that students will make healthier choices at home

All of these benefits can come about by funding this bill. Please support the Farm to School program by supporting SB2928SD2.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, HI 96701

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:23:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Working with k-12 schools, I have been fortunate to witness directly the amazing impacts of the Farm to School program in all aspects of the students' and communities' lives. The emphasis on engaging students in understanding where their food is coming from, reducing wastes, valuing the contributions of farmers, and the importance of nutrient-dense foods is essential in moving Hawaii toward self-sufficiency. The positive social, health, and economic community benefits are immeasurable, but they are undoubtedly immense. Direct funding for schools to increase their work and impact through the Farm to School program will be crucial. Mahalo for supporting this measure.

Jennifer - Waste Reduction Coordinator - Kokua Hawaii Foundation



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

LATE

Date: 03/14/2018
Time: 08:30 AM
Location: 312
Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2928, SD2 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 appropriations to continue the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position and to assist farmers and ranchers achieve Good Agricultural Practices Certification from the United States Department of Agriculture. Repeals on 6/30/2021. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of SB 2928, SD2. 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 312

In SUPPORT of SB 2928 SD2 Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2928 SD2**, which seeks to establish and appropriate funds for 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 Hawai'i Farm to School Program.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting these unique and beautiful islands we call home, have engaged in decades-long efforts to keep food sustainability strong and thriving. This measure will effectively reduce mainland dependency, a huge concern we face today as 90% of food is imported, and 80% of local production is exported¹. These statistics are shocking and do not support strong sustainability, further increasing our reliance on imported goods and an empty local economy. **The Farm to School program provides one mechanism in efforts to move toward food self sufficiency and achieving healthy, resilient, and sustainable agricultural practices throughout the islands.**

Currently the program is supported by special funding, making it hard to plan and administer program agendas. If the program was funded through general revenues, it would be more stable and continue to increase the State's return on investment. We have the opportunity to support healthy nutrition in schools, engage students in the agricultural processes, and increase academic achievement throughout island schools.

We need positive change in our agricultural practices to happen now. In failing to pass this measure, we are failing to provide the platform for future generations to have

¹ <https://mauimagazine.net/empty-isles/>

healthy nutrition in the school environment, as well as missing the chance to educate younger generations on sustainable agricultural practices.

We are committed to supporting efforts seeking to educate the next generation on food sustainability across the islands. SB 2928 SD2 contributes to these collective efforts in food sustainability and education. This is a measure to invest in our future, which the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports in full.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

LATE

SB-2928-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:27:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nik Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: