

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that farm to school  
2 programs effect positive change for the State in the areas of  
3 agriculture, education, and health and that state-level support  
4 for farm to school programming is an essential investment for  
5 Hawaii.

6           The legislature established the Hawaii farm to school  
7 program and coordinator position in the Hawaii department of  
8 agriculture with Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, to invest  
9 in sourcing local food for state institutions and to increase  
10 agriculture and nutrition education opportunities for students  
11 such as school gardens, animal husbandry, farm field trips,  
12 culinary experiences, and expanded agricultural career pathways.  
13 In addition to the progress made in these areas, the Hawaii farm  
14 to school program's efforts have increased the State's capacity  
15 to meet other state objectives such as increasing student  
16 health, increasing student academic achievement, growing  
17 farmers, and increasing local food production. However,



1 projects funded through special funds can be difficult to plan  
2 and administer; if the Hawaii farm to school program is funded  
3 with general revenues, the program will be more stable and can  
4 continue to increase the State's return on investment by growing  
5 valuable farm to school programs and institutional purchasing  
6 opportunities.

7       The legislature finds that farm to school programs enhance  
8 student education, connect students with agricultural concepts  
9 and practices, improve childhood nutrition, and support the  
10 needs of the whole child with numerous benefits during and after  
11 the school day. Included in these benefits are increases in  
12 academic achievement that result from place-based experiential  
13 learning with physical activity, increases in student  
14 participation in school meal programs and preference for fresh  
15 fruits and vegetables contributing to improved student  
16 nutritional habits and overall health, and improvements in  
17 overall student behavior, school attendance, and family and  
18 community engagement.

19       The legislature also finds that farm to school activities  
20 support a nutritious school food environment in public schools,  
21 which are attended by more than eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's



1 children and youth. Because farm to school activities  
2 familiarize students with locally grown foods and increase  
3 student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables at school and  
4 at home, investing in farm to school programs means investing in  
5 the health of children by helping to establish healthy behaviors  
6 at an early age, which may prevent the onset of chronic diseases  
7 that appear later in life including heart disease, cancer, and  
8 diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in Hawaii.

9 The legislature further finds that farm to school programs  
10 contribute to increasing local food production, which is a  
11 critical component to food security as identified in the office  
12 of planning's report, *Increased Food Security and Food Self-*  
13 *Sufficiency Strategy*, and that institutional purchasing can  
14 expand local supply with strategic procurement plans. Moreover,  
15 Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, encourages the purchase and  
16 use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents,  
17 businesses, and governmental bodies. Yet, the procurement of  
18 locally grown and raised foods has been difficult for state  
19 entities who struggle to find adequate local supply while  
20 complying with procurement laws, regulations, and procedures.  
21 Although the Hawaii farm to school coordinator has been working



1 with stakeholders to address the issues of supply, demand,  
2 procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state  
3 facilities, Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for  
4 schools and other state facilities need assistance to meet the  
5 prerequisite demands of state contracting such as food safety  
6 requirements to comply with the Food and Drug Administration's  
7 Food Safety Modernization Act and good agricultural practices  
8 certifications. Besides schools, the support of the Hawaii farm  
9 to school program and investment in a farm to school grant pilot  
10 program may increase local food production with increased local  
11 purchasing efforts in Hawaii.

12 The legislature finds that a number of other states operate  
13 farm to school grant programs, including but not limited to  
14 Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York,  
15 Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. The goals of these grant  
16 programs are to increase access to healthy local foods, provide  
17 increased educational opportunities around agriculture,  
18 nutrition, and food systems, and support and grow market  
19 opportunities for local food producers and processors. A farm  
20 to school grant pilot program will provide direct support to  
21 local entities for the development of community-level farm to



1 school programs toward the attainment of these same goals for  
2 the people and communities of Hawaii.

3 The purpose of this Act is to support and sustain the  
4 progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a  
5 three-year farm to school grant pilot program in the department  
6 of agriculture.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
8 of agriculture a three-year farm to school grant pilot program.  
9 The department of agriculture shall collaborate with the  
10 department of education, department of health, public charter  
11 schools, the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
12 agriculture and human resources, and farm to school stakeholders  
13 to provide grants to the following eligible entities:

- 14 (1) Public schools within the department of education;
- 15 (2) Public charter schools;
- 16 (3) Public funded early care and education centers;
- 17 (4) Nonprofit organizations;
- 18 (5) Soil and water conservation districts organized  
19 pursuant to chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and



1 (6) Farmers, ranchers, and other food vendors registered  
2 with the department of agriculture's Hawaii farm to  
3 school program.

4 (b) An eligible entity may apply to the department of  
5 agriculture for a grant to support:

6 (1) Procurement of foods produced or processed in the  
7 State that meet the Hawaii products preference  
8 requirements of section 103D-1002, Hawaii Revised  
9 Statutes;

10 (2) Food-based, agriculture-based, farm-based, and school  
11 garden-based educational and apprenticeship  
12 activities;

13 (3) Initiatives to sustain or expand existing farm to  
14 school programs; or

15 (4) Food safety and good agricultural practices training  
16 and implementation.

17 (c) An entity that receives a grant shall use the moneys  
18 for costs directly associated with the approved activities,  
19 including labor and professional fees for employees or  
20 contractors, professional development and relevant teacher



1 substitute costs, training expenses, travel costs, and necessary  
2 supplies and equipment purchased for the activities.

3 (d) The department of agriculture shall collaborate with  
4 the department of education, the department of health, and other  
5 farm to school stakeholders to develop and adopt rules under  
6 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, necessary to implement the  
7 farm to school grant pilot program, including but not limited  
8 to:

- 9 (1) Rules establishing the amounts of grants to be  
10 awarded;
- 11 (2) Procedures for applying for grants; and
- 12 (3) Criteria for awarding grants, which shall include:
- 13 (A) A preference for entities that propose activities  
14 that:
- 15 (i) Are well designed;
- 16 (ii) Promote healthy food activities;
- 17 (iii) Have clear educational objectives;
- 18 (iv) Involve parents and the community;
- 19 (v) Expand agricultural career pathways;
- 20 (vi) Increase local food production in  
21 communities;



1 (vii) Are connected to existing farm to school  
2 procurement activities; and

3 (viii) Are culturally relevant to the students  
4 being served by the grant moneys;

5 (B) Among the selected grant recipients,  
6 representation of a variety of school sizes and  
7 geographic locations; and

8 (C) Among the selected grant recipients, service of a  
9 high percentage of children who qualify for free  
10 or reduced price school meals under the United  
11 States Department of Agriculture's National  
12 School Lunch Program.

13 SECTION 3. The Hawaii farm to school coordinator shall  
14 submit a report to the legislature on the value and outcome of  
15 the farm to school grant pilot project, and any recommendations  
16 regarding the program, including proposed legislation, no later  
17 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
18 of 2021.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the





1 farm to school grant pilot program to provide grants to  
2 recipients of the farm to school grant pilot program.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
6 the continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program, to be  
7 allocated as follows:

8 (1) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
9 farm to school coordinator position; and

10 (2) \$ for administrative expenses for the Hawaii  
11 farm to school program.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to  
15 assist farmers and ranchers in acquiring good agricultural  
16 practices certifications from the United States Department of  
17 Agriculture.

18 SECTION 7. The sums appropriated by sections 4 through 6  
19 of this Act shall be expended by the department of agriculture  
20 for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and  
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.



**Report Title:**

Agriculture; DOA; Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Grant Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

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)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*





## 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 16, 2018

To: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

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 19, 2018 at 3:10pm in Conference Room 309

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

### 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.<sup>3</sup>

### 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.<sup>4</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

**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.

<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> National Farm to School Network, *The Benefits of Farm to School* (Apr 2017)

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

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

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

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

# **LATE TESTIMONY**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 19, 2018  
3:10 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

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

Chairperson Woodson 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



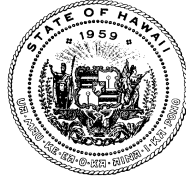
Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities committed to increasing local food production, and it is apparent that Hawaii farmers interested in producing food for our schools need assistance to comply with the prerequisite purchasing demands of state contracting.

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

**LATE**

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2928 SD2  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 19, 2018

Room Number: 309

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.

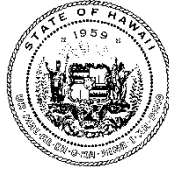
10 The DOH supports the continuance of the Farm to School program in the DOA and looks  
11 forward to collaborating on the development of a Farm to School grant pilot program. Farm to  
12 school programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and  
13 farmers. These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

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](mailto: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 HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION

March 19, 2018, 3:10 p.m.

SB2928, SD2  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2928, 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.



## 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.

*“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.





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."*

**life is why™** es por **la vida™** 全为**生命™**

*Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.*





Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Monday, March 19, 2018 — 3:10 p.m. — Room 309

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2928 SD 2, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, 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 2**, 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

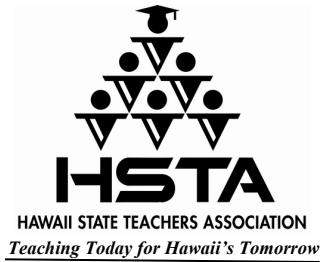
*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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



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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

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

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

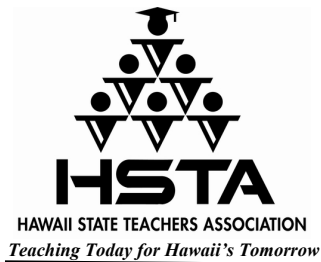
Chair Woodson and Members of the Committees:

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 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.)





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

**Corey Rosenlee**  
President

**Justin Hughey**  
Vice President

**Amy Perruso**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Wilbert Holck**  
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.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, March 19, 2018 – 3:10 PM – Room 309

### RE: SB 2928 SD2 - Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program - In Support

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the  
Committee:

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 2928 SD2**, 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. It also 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.

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 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 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Lori Lum  
808-544-8343  
[llum@wik.com](mailto: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



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

**LATE**

**Date:** 03/19/2018  
**Time:** 03:10 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education

**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 ability 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).

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

**LATE**

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

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

---

FOR: SB 2928 SD2 SD1 Relating to Hawaii Farm to School Program  
DATE: March 19, 2018  
TIME: 3:10 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: House Committee on Education  
ROOM: Room 309  
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

---

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2928 SD2**, which supports and sustains the Hawaii Farm to School program and establishes a three-year pilot farm to school grant program in the Department of Agriculture.

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

The Commission thanks the Legislature for including public charter schools in this legislation that benefits and educates our public school students. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with the committee, the DOE, and public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 3:10 p.m.

Date: March 19, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

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

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kong, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**LATE**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

DATE: Monday, March 19, 2018  
TIME: 3:10 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 309

**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 Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, 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.



**SB-2928-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 4:20:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting this Bill is supporting the development of a community food system, a more robust agricultural economy, the DOE's 'Aina Pono school food transformation, new and beginning farmers, food security for the future, and the vision for increasing locally produced food in Hawai'i.

**SB-2928-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 4:51:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lillian Coltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2928-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 9:01:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair; the Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice-Chair and the Members of the House Committee on Education:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities 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

Sincerely yours,

/s /

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee  
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



**SB-2928-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:03:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/19/2018 3:10:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lindsey whitcomb	Windward Zero Waste Schools	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong, & Representatives of the EDN committee,

Mahalo for your time, & please excuse the late testimony as the turn-around since the last committee was so short. I would like to voice my support for measure 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. Chair Woodson, you may recall that last year I brought in a handful of keiki from a Kailua school to support a measure to fund an expansion of our school composting program (similar to this year's HB2025). You were so attentive & spoke to my students after the hearing to commend their efforts in coming to speak at the capitol. This bill, if passed, would also present an opportunity for our program to grow our operations and expand to additional schools, and would create opportunities for many other innovative programs as well.

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.

Monday, March 19th, 2018 at 3:10pm  
Conference Room 309

**House Committee on Education**

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, 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.