

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2018
2:50 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

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

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kidani and Members of the Committees:

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

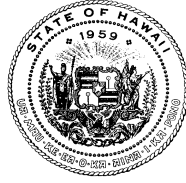


Through the Farm to School Coordinator, the Department has been working directly with the State Procurement Office, Department of Education (DOE), Hawaii Child Nutrition Program, Department of Health, farmers, distributors, and nonprofit entities committed to increasing local food production, and it 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
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 7, 2018

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) appreciates the intent of Senate
2 Bill 2928 (S.B. 2928), but respectfully defers to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) regarding
3 implementation of the measure and to the priorities set forth in the Governor's Supplemental
4 Budget Request.

5 S.B. 2928 appropriates \$200,000 in general funds for the continuance of the Hawaii farm
6 to school program in the DOA for fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019. This bill also appropriates
7 general funds to the DOA in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the three-year farm to school grant
8 pilot program and \$100,000 for administrative costs of the farm to school grant pilot program for
9 FY 2018-2019.

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

1 The Department supports the continuance of the farm to school program in the DOA and
2 looks forward to collaborating on the development of a farm to school grant pilot program. Farm
3 to school programs provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities, and
4 farmers. These programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between our state
5 agencies, improve access to healthy food options in schools, and increase consumption of fruits
6 and vegetables among youth. Farm to school programs align with the Department’s prevention
7 strategies to reinforce healthy food systems and help students to establish life-long practices that
8 will reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood
9 pressure, and some cancers.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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

Date: 02/07/2018

Time: 02:50 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Agriculture and
Environment
Senate Education

Department: Education

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

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

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

Department's Position:

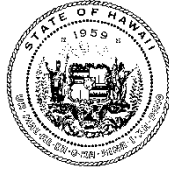
The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intent of SB 2928.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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

TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
EDUCATION

February 7, 2018, 2:50 p.m.

SENATE BILL 2928
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairs Gabbard and Kidani, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kahele, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2928. 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 that we are pledging demand in order to grow the supply on our islands.

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

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

Thank you.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 2:50 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And
Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2928 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairs Gabbard and Kidani, Vice Chairs Riviere and Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Education:

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

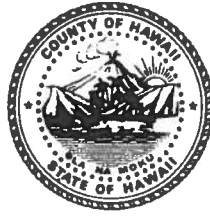
Section 1. We concur with the listed reasons in SB 2928 that describe how farm to school programs are beneficial to the education and health of students. A further advantage of farm to school programs is the assurance of a specific and sustained market for locally grown products that the school system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

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

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

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

Maile Medeiros David
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



Phone: (808) 323-4277
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 6, 2018

Honorable Mike Gabbard Chair
Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, House Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: S.B. No. 2928– Relating to the Hawai'i Farm School Program.

Honorable Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Riviere:

Aloha and mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. No. 2928. My name is Maile David, Councilmember representing Council District 6 (rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū and Volcano Village). I am a strong supporter of our farm to school program and the intent of S.B. 2928 relating to the Hawai'i Farm School Program.

The growing communities of the Big Island are faced with circumstances with respect to transportation and access to farmers' markets and grocery stores for many of the rural community families. The farm to school programs support and encourage students to make healthier choices. I fully support the intent of S.B. 2928 and the positive benefits for the department of agriculture and the department of education living on the Island of Hawai'i and therefore request that S.B. 2928 be favorably acted upon.

Mahalo a nui loa for your positive consideration.

Very truly yours,

Maile David

Maile David, Council Member
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village



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

The American Heart Association supports SB 2928, 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 three children entering kindergarten in our state is already overweight or obese. The danger is that obesity can lead to chronic diseases later in life, such as diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. It is also costly to our society; each year, Hawaii spends roughly \$427 million obesity-related health care costs.

Staying active and eating healthy food are the two main ways to prevent obesity and reduce the risk of chronic disease. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of many of the common chronic diseases. The American Heart Association estimates that 80 percent of heart disease and stroke is preventable through improved lifestyle habits.

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables may help control both weight and blood pressure, and they contribute a number of important nutrients that most people don't get enough of, including folate, magnesium, potassium and dietary fiber, as well as vitamins A, C, and K. And they are naturally low in saturated fat and calories. The 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, variety matters, so it's important to eat a wide range of fruits and veggies.

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

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.





HUI MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Farm to Keiki
(Preschool/ECE)

FoodCorps Hawai'i

Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools
(HAIS)

'Iolani School/O'ahu Farm
to School Network

Kamehameha Schools

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens
of Waimea Middle School

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i
School Garden Network

Maui School Garden
Network

Pacific Resources for
Education and Learning
(PREL)

Sustainable Molokai/
Molokai School Garden
Network

The Kohala Center/Hawai'i
Island School Garden
Network

Date: February 6, 2018

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

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

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

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

Hearing: February 7, 2018 at 2:50pm in Conference Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2928**, 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 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 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)

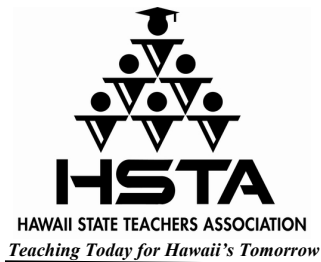
² National Farm to School Network, *The Benefits of Farm to School* (Apr 2017)

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)



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION and THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

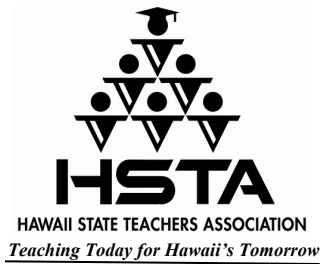
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2928**, 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, perhaps with vertical farming, aquaponics, organic farming etc.



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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

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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 — 2:50 p.m. — Room 229

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

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committees:

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, 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 these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

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

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner



February 4, 2018

Support for 2928
Maui School Garden Network

Aloha Hawai'i State Representatives:

I wish to offer my support for SB 2928 both as the Director of the Maui School Garden Network and as a member of the Hawai'i State Farm to School Hui.

By passing this bill Hawai'i will enhance our ability to serve students in grades PK-12 by providing a way for principals, school garden coordinators, and teachers to access much needed funds from these minigrants at times when just a little extra will make the difference between paying for a farm visit or food hub visit and not being able to cover the costs of transportation.

These funds will also make the difference in providing professional development opportunities in ag and nr through our island colleges, the University of Hawaii system, and our island professionals that are specifically designed for PK-8 teachers thus enhancing the possibilities for both building STEM skills and building ag and nr skills through STEM elaborations.

Finally, by supporting this bill, our state legislators will be acknowledging the larger picture of food production within the state of hawai'i by also offering DOA mini grants to soil and water conservation districts, as well as food producers. We are beginning to see an effective collaboration among all our cohorts and the passing of this bill will affirm the good work that that has begun within the DOA Farm To School program and its coordinator.

Mahalo,

Lehn Huff, Director
Maui School Garden Network
Member, Local Food Coalition
PO Box 458
Haiku, Hawaii 96708
(808) 250-8323 Cell
msgn@hawaii.rr.com



February 2, 2018

Re: SB2928 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Aloha,

Mālama Kaua'i strongly **SUPPORTS** SB2928 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

SB2928 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. It requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature and also makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

The DoA Farm to School Coordinator has been an incredible asset to the work that many organizations across the State are doing to increase local food procurement, including ours. The grant program will only further this work and increase economic development within the agricultural sector through institutionalization.

Farm to school benefits our state in many ways by improving 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 the demand for locally grown foods.

Mālama Kaua'i is a 501c3 on the island of Kaua'i that advocates, educates, and drives action towards a sustainable Kaua'i with a focus on sustainable economic development. We have an emphasis on increasing local food production and consumption on our island, and we believe this legislation will forward efforts significantly in this area.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this important work.

Megan Fox
Executive Director

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2928, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.
Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture & Environment
February 7, 2018 at 2:45pm at Conference Room 229

Aloha Senators,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY supports SB2928**, which will create a farm to school grant pilot program in the Department of Agriculture and make appropriations for continuance of the Hawai'i farm to school program and coordinator position.

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. 'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes a standards-based nutrition, garden, and compost curriculum that empowers children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. 'ĀINA In Schools also promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demonstrations in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities for families and community members. We work directly with 23 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 472 educators from over 239 schools and organizations from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

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

We advocated for and are pleased to see the Department of Agriculture's Farm to School program grow. This program and the grant making pilot will help to improve school food environments, incorporate school garden programs in the school curriculum, and work with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown produce in school cafeterias. It will also contribute to sustainability and self sufficiency goals of increasing local food production as outlined in the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative.

With more than 85 percent of Hawai'i youth attending public schools, Farm to School can bring parents, students, teachers, and farmers together to strengthen what is grown and consumed in our state. More importantly, students who participate in Farm to School activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer, and consume fruits and vegetables at school and at home. It is never too early to establish healthy behaviors to prevent unhealthy weight gain, tooth decay, or Type 2 diabetes, which are often associated with unhealthy dietary behaviors. Please see the attached document from the National Farm to School Network, "The Benefits of Farm to School" for specific examples and statistics of how farm to school programs benefit students, schools, and local economies.

Having spent the last 12 years working to advance Farm to School in Hawai'i and serving as Core Partner (state-level representative) to the National Farm to School Network, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is highly invested in this movement. We offer our strong support for this measure and look forward to continued and expanded partnerships with the Department of Agriculture to further implement Farm to School in Hawai'i. We strongly urge you to vote in support of SB2928.

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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**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Agriculture and Environment and
Education**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018; 2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Chair Gabbard, Chair Kidani, 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, 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;
- (5) Direct the Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator to report to the 2021 Legislature on the value and outcome of the program;
- (6) Appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for DOA to provide grants to recipients of the program;

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2928

February 7, 2018; 2:50 p.m.

Page 2

- (7) Appropriate \$100,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for administrative costs incurred by DOA in operating the program, including the hiring of a contractor to administer the program;
- (8) Appropriate \$200,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the continuance of the program, for one full-time equivalent farm to school coordinator position, and administrative expenses for the program; and
- (9) Provide that the Act take effect on July 1, 2018, and sunset on June 30, 2021.

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

We note that a measure authorizing the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program, House Bill No. 2156, was heard by the House Committee on Education on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair | Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair | Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2018
TIME: 2:50 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

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

Establishes a farm to school grant pilot program within the Hawaii department of agriculture to provide grants to schools, early care and education centers, nonprofits, soil and water conservation districts, and food producers participating in the Hawaii farm to school program. Requires the Hawaii farm to school coordinator to submit a report to the legislature. Makes appropriations for continuance of the Hawaii farm to school program and coordinator position.

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

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 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 SB 2928 and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:47:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Rieux		Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Amanda Rieux and I am with MÄ• la'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island. We are a non-profit working in partnership with Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island.

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

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

- Increased the procurement of locally-grown foods for school meals
- Strengthened agriculture education for the development of future farmers (University of Hawaii-West Oahu has recently been rated one of the top schools for sustainable agriculture)
- Collected comprehensive data via the Hawai'i Farm to School Census
- Developed and Ensured food safety practices on farms and in schools
- Begun building inter-agency collaboration and nurturing public-private partnerships (MÄ• la'ai is such a partnership)

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

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

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

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

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

Hope to see you in the Garden,

Amanda Rieux

Program Director, Garden Founder

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

POB 543, Kamuela HI 96743

(808)640-3637

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 2:50pm
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Senate Committee on Education

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

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

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

My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President and Government Relations at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I testify in support of SB 2928 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 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.

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 3:17:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH	Support	No

Comments:

According to *The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America* released August 2017. Hawaii's adult obesity rate is currently 23.8 percent, up from 15.7 percent in 2000 and from 8.9 percent in 1990. For children, ages 10-17 years, the obesity rate is 25.5%, and for Native Hawaiians, the statistic nearly doubles to 40.8 percent. According to a new Dept of Health report, 1 in 4 adults in Hawaii is now obese.

Given these statistics, we wholeheartedly endorse SB2928 that would support and sustain the progress of the Hawaii farm to school program and to establish a three-year farm to school grant pilot program in the department of agriculture.

Recognizing the high rate of obesity among Native Hawaiians (40.8%), we would strongly recommend amending this bill to provide some type of priority for grants to schools located in predominantly Native Hawaiian communities, such as Waianae, Nanakuli, Waimanalo, and Papakolea or in neighborhoods within or adjacent to Hawaiian Home Lands.

As the measure recognizes, the farm to school programs enhance student education, connect students with agricultural concepts and practices, improve childhood nutrition, and support the needs of the whole child with numerous benefits during and after the school day. Included in these benefits are increases in academic achievement that result from place-based experiential learning with physical activity, increases in student participation in school meal programs and preference for fresh fruits and vegetables contributing to improved student nutritional habits and overall health, and improvements in overall student behavior, school attendance, and family and community engagement.

The farm to school activities support a nutritious school food environment in public schools, which are attended by more than eighty-five per cent of Hawaii's children and youth. Because farm to school activities familiarize students with locally grown foods and increase student consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables at school and at home, investing in farm to school programs means investing in the health of children by helping to establish healthy behaviors at an early age, which may prevent the onset of chronic diseases that appear later in life including heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in Hawaii.

Please pass SB2928. It's an investment in the health of Hawaii's youth.

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:19:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass.	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:42:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support for these types of projects for the Hawai'i State Farm to School Program is essential to make an "investment" for the future. Investing in pilot programs in schools, early care centers, and food producers who wish to sell to the DOE, just makes good sense. Think of how much money the Hawai'i State Legislature "invested" in the sugar and pineapple industry to get it going and sustain & support it over a 100 years or more. The DOE is the largest food purchaser in the State, including schools, prisons, and seniors meal programs and there is now a program, interest, and a growing need for more food to be produced in the state. This Bill will help the "build it" side of and "they will come."

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 4:25:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:44:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:28:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DONNIE BECKER		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:43:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski		Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB2928. It's win-win-win in regards to our young people, economy and environment.

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:50:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	citizen	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill! Our children's diet and health

leave much to be desired: this program can help make important changes!

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:15:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha kākou-

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

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

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

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

Tasia Yamamura

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:33:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:12:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:53:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Iwamoto		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2928

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:28:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 2:50:00 PM

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

Comments: