



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Education

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: February 7, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

E nā Luna Ho'omalū Gabbard a me Kidani, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū Riviere a me Kahele, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o kēia mau Kōmike 'elua, 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, relating to the Hawaii Farm to School program which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a farm to school program. This measure requires the farm to school coordinator in the department of agriculture to work in collaboration with the department of education on any farm to school program. It establishes two FTE farm to school staff positions within the department of education and appropriates funds.

If enacted, this bill will be an important step toward promoting the health of our keiki, restoring the sustainability of Hawai'i, encouraging culturally-relevant practices, while growing Hawai'i's economy. We request that charter schools be 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