



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

Date: 01/29/2019
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: 225
Committee: Senate Housing
Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0303 RELATING TO GARDENS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 303. The Department respectfully requests greater clarity in what may be required in administrative coordination with the Hawaii Community Development Authority, funding, and its impact on current staffing as all of these elements pose a considerable impact on our schools.

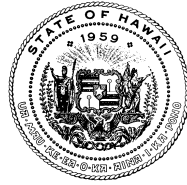
According to the 2016 School Health Profiles Report, 80% of grade six through 12 schools had gardens. The Department continues to promote engaging and integrated learning across the educational disciplines such as math, science, social studies and English, in its efforts to expand creative and innovative opportunities. This includes garden-based projects.

The Department's school design strategy prioritizes a flexible and adaptive approach, empowering each school to make decisions about specific contexts and partnerships for developing high quality and relevant learning experiences based on the needs of their students' and local community. Within the Department, a tri-level system comprised of the complex areas and state offices respond and provide multiple instructional and infrastructure supports to meet a school's outcomes across the range of school design models.

In this effort, as gardens are created on their campuses, every school in the Department is able to access an array of resources within this tri-level system and through excellent stakeholder partnerships such as the Farm To School Hui. As this process is well-established and growing across Hawaii, the Department suggests that legislation is not needed at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 303.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 303
RELATING TO GARDENS

SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: January 29, 2019 1:15 p.m. Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully defers to the Departments
2 of Education (DOE), Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and the
3 University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH
4 CTAHR) regarding implementation of the measure and to the priorities set forth in the Executive
5 fiscal biennium budget request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this Act is to authorize the DOE and DBEDT, Hawaii
7 Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish
8 gardens on school campuses and within communities. UH CTAHR will provide consultation on
9 best practices for these gardens.

10 The Department would like to provide comments on this bill relating to it's potential
11 positive health impacts. School and community gardens provide a variety of benefits to students,
12 parents, schools, and communities. Garden programs have the potential to strengthen

1 partnerships between state agencies, improve access to healthy food options, and increase
2 consumption of fruits and vegetables. Garden programs align with the DOH's prevention
3 strategies to develop healthy food systems and reinforce positive nutrition behaviors that will
4 reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure,
5 and some cancers.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Housing
And
Senate Committee on Education
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 303 – RELATING TO GARDENS

Chairs Chang and Kidani, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Committee on Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 303 relating to gardens in schools and communities. The bill requires that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) should be consulted regarding best practices in gardening, including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community gardening.

CTAHR is the home of the Cooperative Extension Service. As part of that program, it runs a statewide Master Gardener Program, has edible crop and ornamental extension agents in each county and is the home of the Pearl City Urban Garden Center, which has extensive plantings and offers extension courses that are directly related to this bill. CTAHR can provide the consultation required by the bill in the area of both gardening and aquaponics. While the extension capacity is currently limited in aquaculture, UHM/CTAHR is in the process of hiring a new extension specialist in aquaculture and the position should be filled by the time this bill goes into effect and that need is required.

In summary, CTAHR is capable and ready to collaborate with the specifics of this bill should it be passed into law.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 303.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225 State Capitol

RE: SB 303 Relating to Gardens

Aloha mai kakou Members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Education:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 303 relating to Gardens.**

SB 303 authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

DPH supports this measure because it believes that in order to support the development of new generations of farmers, we must support an increased availability of training in agriculture and related business requirements at centers of education around the state.

DPH supports making available incentives and low-cost loans to enable new farmers to establish farming operations.

Small farmers are the backbone of Hawai`i's agricultural future. DPH supports the establishment of agricultural parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and utilize fertile land efficiently. DPH supports the establishment of

community-supported food hubs for drying, canning, freezing, and distribution of agricultural crops and produce.

Furthermore, DPH supports the development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep land costs down. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 49-51, p.10, ln. 1-7.*

For these reasons, the OCCLP supports and urges the passage of HB 303 out of the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Education.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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HAWAI'I FARM TO SCHOOL HUI

LEARNING GARDENS AND SCHOOL FOOD SYSTEMS



HUI MEMBER CORE ORGANIZATIONS:

Grow Some Good

'Iolani School/O'ahu Farm to School Network

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens of Waimea Middle School/
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i School Garden Network

Maui School Garden Network

Sustainable Molokai/
Molokai School Garden Network

The Kohala Center

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. Farm to school programs include school gardens, education, and school food improvements through local procurement. 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.

Date: January 28, 2019

To: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Comments on SB303, Relating to Gardens

Hearing: January 29, 2019 at 1:15pm in Conference Room 225

LATE

Thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on SB303** which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) and Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

The purpose, intention, and impacts of the bill as currently written are unclear. The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates and thanks the legislature for supporting school gardens. We respectfully request that the legislature consider providing increased support including **dedicated staff and funding in HIDOE to help coordinate and support high-quality garden-based learning programs in Hawaii's public schools.**

Eighty five percent of K-12 public non-charter schools in Hawai'i already have school gardens, according to the most recent data (SY1718) from the Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), which is administered annually by HIDOE and the Hawai'i Department of Health. Extensive support for these programs (through professional development, resource development and sharing, capacity building, etc.) has been provided over the past decade by the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and its members, including farm to school and school garden networks on each island. Approximately eighty percent (or \$5.6 million) of \$7 million invested in the development of these programs and of the statewide movement from 2007-2017 has come from private funding sources. **The need for increased State support is clear.**

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui encourages the legislature to also consider the recommendations of **DC149**: the Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i pursuant to S.R. No. 80 (2015), and to support **SB762/HB1102** in order to **increase the capacity of the University of Hawai'i (UH) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to support agriculture education in Hawaii's schools.** The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has developed a number of resources to support best practices for school gardens, including safe growing and food handling. Materials are available at www.farmtoschoolhui.org.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on SB303.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)



LATE

Testimony in Support of SB 303, "Relating to Gardens"

Chairman of the Board
Mark Yamakawa

President
Kahealani Rivera, MD

Board Members
Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP
Brandt Farias
Mimi Harris
David Honma
Glen Kaneshige
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Elisa Yadao

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The American Heart Association SUPPORTS SB 303, "Relating to Gardens."

Numerous studies have shown that school garden programs can improve students' attitudes toward fruits and vegetables, and may increase consumption. School gardens may also teach and reinforce responsibility, leadership, group cohesion/team building, eco-literacy, basic life-science, problem-solving skills, math skills, pride, confidence and self-esteem. Students learn and build higher-order thinking skills through experiential, reality- and project- based learning. Some desired health outcomes of school gardens include:

- Students are aware that fruits and vegetables are part of a healthy diet
- Participation in a school garden program improves attitude toward consuming vegetables as part of a diet
- Participation in school gardening program increases consumption of vegetables
- Participation in school garden program increases knowledge of nutritional benefits of consuming vegetables daily
- Students participation in school garden program increases parents knowledge in the nutritional benefits of consuming vegetables daily
- Students participation in school gardening program increases parents attitude towards serving vegetables daily

School gardens can be just one of the necessary policy tools needed to address the current childhood obesity issues plaguing Hawaii, as well as

the diseases resulting from that issue. The American Heart Association encourages your support of SB 303.

Respectfully submitted, -

Donald B. Weisman

Don Weisman

Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director

SB-303

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 3:53:28 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-303

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 2:11:15 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/29/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Gardens teach students both about botany and good nutrition.

LATE

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Michelle Okamoto

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 303, Relating to Gardens

My name is Michelle Okamoto. I'm a student at U.H. Manoa and a substitute teacher. I fully support S.B. No. 303, Relating to Gardens, which would offer educational opportunities, develop a healthy lifestyle, and beautify communities in which people live.

Developing a program to establish gardens in schools provides educational opportunities that students otherwise might not experience in their life. The program could be incorporated into a wide array of curriculum pertaining to for instance, math, science, and social studies. Students can learn hands-on experiences that instill a work ethic and how hard it is to plant and maintain a garden. As a substitute teacher, I believe students would have valuable experiences such as harvesting the food that they grow in the garden.

A community garden also promotes a healthy lifestyle. A community garden promotes a healthy lifestyle by having people grow their own food which in turn helps people eat more healthy food. Having a community garden also helps people to be more physically active so they can get exercise while they're gardening.

Community gardens help to beautify communities to make them more appealing to prospective homeowners and to the people who already live in these communities. By creating and establishing gardens, people would take pride in seeing how they've transformed their community to make it a better place to live. A community garden also promotes social interaction in the communities where it is established.

It is important to establish programs such as creating gardens in schools and communities because it has a wide array of uses. For instance, in schools, creating gardens teaches work skills and independence. Another important aspect of community gardens is it promotes a healthy

lifestyle in people and it beautifies communities in which people live. I urge the committee to pass S.B. 303. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.