



HAWAI'I FARM TO SCHOOL HUI

LEARNING GARDENS AND SCHOOL FOOD SYSTEMS



HUI MEMBER CORE ORGANIZATIONS:

Grow Some Good/Maui School Garden Network

'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

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: February 11, 2019

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Comments on SB303, Relating to Gardens

Hearing: February 14, 2019 at 10:00am in Conference Room 211

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 **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 have active 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 provide comments on SB303.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal

Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)



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

Date: 02/14/2019

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

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 the 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.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

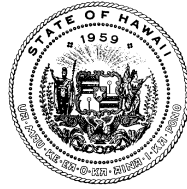
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 303
RELATING TO GARDENS

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 14, 2019 10:00 a.m. Room Number: 211

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 Biennium Budget Request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of Senate Bill 303 (S.B. 303) is to authorize the DOE,
7 DBEDT, and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to develop programs that
8 provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within communities. UH
9 CTAHR is designated to provide consultation on best practices for these gardens.

10 The Department supports this bill and its potential positive health impacts. School and
11 community gardens provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, and communities.
12 Garden programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between state agencies, improve
13 access to healthy food options, and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables. Garden
14 programs align with the Department's prevention strategies to develop healthy food systems and

- 1 reinforce positive nutrition behaviors that will reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as
- 2 obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

SB-303

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:58:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Testifying for Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

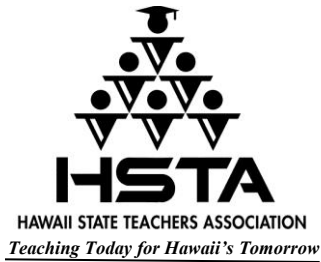
SB-303

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 8:36:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 303 - RELATING TO GARDENS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 303**, relating to gardens.

SB 303 would authorize 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.

According to all studies the state is nowhere near food independent, in fact Hawai'i ships in 90% of the food we consume. School based gardens will help to lower this percentage.

Establishing school-based gardens will also help give all students a more positive attitude toward locally grown fruits and vegetables. Which in turn students will tend to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables verses processed foods. In addition this will help battle youth onset obesity and set them up for better eating habits and food sustainability initiatives later in life.

School-based gardens also have a benefit in the classroom. Students that participate in school-based gardens take pleasure in learning and show a more positive attitude towards education overall than their peers that do not.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SB 303.

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 8:07:11 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: