



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

Date: 03/09/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2215, HD1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes within the department of education the workforce development coordinator position. Specifies duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD1)

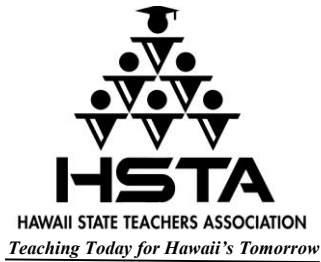
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2215, HD1, proposing to establish and fund a workforce development coordinator position within the Department, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Department's budget. This position will lead the implementation of a coordinated framework for P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii. The Department engages with an array of partners to revitalize the agricultural sector of our state's economy and its vital role in contributing to local food systems. There is a collective vision and commitment galvanized by non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, industry and community foundations.

The Department appreciates the collaboration with the Hawaii P-20 agriculture education working group.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2215, HD1.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.



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

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 2215, HD1 - RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2215, HD1, that will** establish, within the department of education, the workforce development coordinator position. Specifies duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. Appropriates funds.

This bill will help provide a position of a coordinator who will be able to provide information to the pre-k through higher education pipeline needed for our public schools, including charter schools, on agricultural education needs, opportunities, including innovative technology awareness to grow our agricultural programs.

The average age of our current farmers in Hawaii is sixty-six years of age. We must provide access and coordination in our public school pipeline to encourage and support our students to become our new farmers and others needed within the agricultural industry. The industry has drastically changed and our teachers need to have support to connect the rapidly changing industry with support for our curriculum, the agricultural industry, and our students' needs.

Interest in agriculture is waning in our youth and this is worrisome to the industry and to the economy and self-sustainability of our state. There is a common misconception that farming is a low-paying, low-skilled trade. Our youth need to understand that there are a variety of careers within the agricultural industry that need to be filled. They need more workers that are not only technical in nature, but also those who will help to solve the problems listed in the report such as developing new technology and 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.



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Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

Passage of this bill would help provide P-20 coordinator who would help to guide our programs for youth to expand their knowledge and help them navigate the various opportunities within agriculture to gain the knowledge they need to pursue the ever expanding ag-tech career paths as a possible career choice.

According the Hawaii State Department of Education, “Career and Technical Education is an educational structure that allows students the opportunity to explore and learn through the practical application of academic and technical skills and knowledge. The support and involvement of business and industry in CTE is critical to the preparation of tomorrow's skilled workforce.”

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 9, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2215, HD1
RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Room 309
2:20 PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2215, HD1, which establishes within the Department of Education the Workforce Development Coordinator position.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011 to address Ag Labor. The Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This is an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

In 2015, Hawaii State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an “implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P–20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation.” SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

Creating a Workforce Development Coordinator position within DOE is needed to support P-20 agriculture education in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Date: March 6, 2020

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

From: Lydi Bernal, Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Re: SUPPORT for HB2215 HD1, Relating to Workforce Development

Hrg: March 9, 2020 at 2:45pm at Conference Room 229

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2215 HD1**, which establishes and funds the Workforce Development Coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to implement the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide Plan (DC149, 2019).

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to the Obesity Prevention Task Force¹ and the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui², which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands**.

Since the passage of Senate Resolution 80 in 2015, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has worked with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) to convene the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group for the purposes developing a **coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education in Hawai'i**.

Representatives from **nearly 40 public-private-non-profit partners** have assembled under this umbrella for the past 4 years with a common goal of increasing the depth, breadth, and scope of agriculture and food systems education in the state. HB2215 HD1 is based largely on the group's final report to the 2019 legislature ([DC149](#)).

As outlined in the final report and provided for in HB2215 HD1, **the Coordinator position is essential** for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through agriculture and food systems education.

The primary focus of the Coordinator will be on **teacher development, curricular integration, and cultivation of agriculture educators**. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs across the state.

This bill addresses the pressing need for **immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education** in order to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators, future farmers, and a society that understands, supports, and actively participates in regenerating Hawaii's community food systems.

We respectfully ask that you please pass this measure out of committee.

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal
Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui
Member, Obesity Prevention Task Force
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

¹ Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is comprised of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

² The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are 1) school gardens, 2) agriculture, culinary, nutrition, and food systems education, and 3) school food improvements through local food procurement. The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of HIPHI in 2017.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Monday, March 9, 2020 – 2:45 PM – Room 229

**RE: HB 2215 HD1 - Relating to Workforce Development -
In Support**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School
Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 2215 HD1, which establishes within the Department of Education the Workforce Development Coordinator position and specifies duties of the Coordinator and P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group.

Agricultural workforce development is vital in fostering future generations to be agriculturally literate. A comprehensive and coordinated agricultural education framework will expose students to agriculture and by doing so, hopefully increase the number of local farms and farmers, and local food production. This effort will be a major contribution towards achieving the goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2215 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



TESTIMONY OF THE KAHANA FOUNDATION
IN REGARD TO **HB 2215 HD1** RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
TO BE HEARD BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION
MARCH 9 AT 2:45PM IN ROOM 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexandra Kahn, and I am the Co-Founder & Director of Media at the Kahana Foundation. We are a Hawai'i-based environmental awareness organization working to improve our community's understanding and support for sustainable change.

Kahana Foundation **supports HB 2215 HD1** and provides comments. This measure establishes within the department of education the workforce development coordinator position. Specifies duties of the coordinator and P-20 agriculture education working group. Appropriates funds.

A downward trend in Hawaiian small-scale farming and agriculture in the youth leaves older farming generations scrambling for a solution.

According to Scott Enright, the director of the State Department of Agriculture, the average farmer in Hawai'i is 60 years old, which is close to the national average as well. However, Enright also notes that the new generation of young Hawaiian people wanting to delve into small-scale farming have no track record and are unable to get the money lent from banks in order to lease land and start their operations.¹ Additional and ongoing costs to farmers include water, fertilizers, and additional labor costs, among others. The majority of the fertilizer used in Hawai'i is expensive and imported due to a blanket classification system of food waste and a lack of infrastructure around composting, which would allow for local fertilizer production.² While our economy was once based upon agriculture, it has since been replaced by tourism. In fact, less than 1% of the tax-dollar funded state budget is allocated towards agriculture.³ This allocated money funds irrigation, animal disease control, plant and pest disease control, pesticides, quality and price assurance, and general administration for agriculture, among other

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/with-pineapple-and-sugar-production-gone-hawaii-weighs-its-agricultural-future/2017/12/17/c6e69236-e105-11e7-8679-a9728984779c_story.html

² http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/Volume_II_History_of_Agriculture_in_Hawaii_and_Technical_Reference_Document_FINAL.pdf

³ <https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2018/10/decoite-hawaii-farming-suffers-from-lack-of-state-support/>

things.⁴ Concurrent to increased funding support for agriculture, there must be additional education about agriculture, and that starts in school.

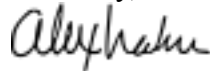
Farming is difficult, and made more difficult by unpredictable weather patterns enhanced through climate change such as increasing heat, drought, and floods. Additionally, our hot humid climate is a breeding ground for pests and rodents, along with the diseases they bring. With different parts of the islands having entirely different weather patterns and resource difficulties, providing helpful crop data could increase farming success rates. This is something that the University of Hawai'i is working on, but has yet to fully explore.⁵ This is also information that can be incorporated into lower education agricultural training to better prepare future farmers.

Agricultural education is vital for the success of our farmers. The education framework has now been established, but a coordinator is required for implementation in schools.

In 2015, Senate Resolution No 80 was passed requesting that The University of Hawai'i at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources “convene a working group to develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education and a plan for implementation.” When the working group completed their report and presented it to legislature, it expressed that a P-20 Agriculture Education Coordinator position was necessary in order to implement the framework they had created.⁶ This bill is in direct response to the request of the working group so that they can complete their original task of infusing agricultural education into lower level education.

We **support HB 2215** and we urge this committee to **pass** this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Alex Kahn
Kahana Foundation

⁴ <https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/10.-Department-of-Agriculture-FY-19-SUPP.2eM.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2018/10/decoite-hawaii-farming-suffers-from-lack-of-state-support/>

⁶ <https://www.hiphi.org/agriculture-education-transforming-systems-for-total-well-being/>

Vincent Mina
President HFUU-HFUF

Anny Bruch
Vice President &
Kaua'i Chapter Pres.

David Case
Secretary

Annie Alvarado
Treasurer

~~~~~<>~~~~~



P.O. Box 99, Wailuku, HI 96793-0099  
(808) 800-3974  
March 8, 2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2215 HD1

**Christian Zuckerman**  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Aloha Chair Michelle Kidani and members of the Committee,

**Vincent Kimura**  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

HFUU is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy, nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters organized as 13 Chapters in the four Hawai'i Counties. In 2017, the Legislature awarded Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation a Grant in Aid project to Strengthen Regional Food Hubs in Hawai'i. As part of that project, the coordinator, Dr. Saleh Azizi, facilitated a focus group among multiple food hubs to improve our understanding of the resources needed for food hubs to be sustainable and respond to demand for local food, especially by the Farm-to-State initiative. In part, the result of the focus group, which was participated by a majority of Hawaii's existing food hubs, is now in front of you, a Food Hub Resolution that would strengthen representation of food hubs in the farm-to-state planning process.

**Brynn Foster**  
North Shore, O'ahu

**Kaipo Kekona**  
Lahaina, Maui

**Bobby Pahia**  
Kahalawai, Maui

**John Dobovan**  
Haleakala, Maui

The Coordinator position is essential for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through agriculture and food systems education.

**Matthew Van Paepghem**  
Hana, Maui

The primary focus of the Coordinator will be on teacher development, curricular integration, and cultivation of agriculture educators. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-service teacher development programs across the state.

**Dash Kuhr**  
Kohala, Hawai'i

**Maureen Datta**  
Kona, Hawai'i

This bill addresses the pressing need for immediate and sustained investment by the state in agriculture and food systems education in order to advance Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency through the development of agriculture educators, future farmers, and a society that understands, supports, and actively participates in regenerating Hawaii's community food systems.

**Steve Lund**  
Puna, Hawai'i

**Drake Weinert**  
East Hawai'i

HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED

**Matt Drayer**  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Vincent Mina, President

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 1:14:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregory Wilber      | Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am submitting testimony as the representative from Center for Getting Things Started of Hawaii. I see right now the anxiety around food insecurity caused by the COVID 19. This is just a symptom to me of the underlying problem that we as Hawaii residents do not place enough value on agriculture and education. We need to raise more technologically savvy agriculturalists and support their work if we are to become self-sufficient.

As outlined in the DC149 report and provided for in HB2215 HD1, the Coordinator position is

essential for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach

to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through agriculture and food systems education.

The primary focus of the Coordinator will be on teacher development, curricular integration,

and cultivation of agriculture educators. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide

Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-

service teacher development programs across the state.

I support this Bill.

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 10:24:49 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Coordinating support for agricultural education statewide and building the future workforce for the food and agriculture of tomorrow here on the most isolated island chain of the world, requires the will, the understanding, and the support of our Legislators and Decision Makers today!

This moment in history points to a new and enlightened commitment on the part of governmental agencies led by our Legislators to partner with the non-profit and community organization work that has been leading the work in this area over the past 12 years fueled by private foundation investment.

It is time for us to come together on our commitment for the future of Agriculture and really "all life." HB2215 HD1 will move us onto that track. Our children and youth need "real life" education that will actually prepare them and their communities for the uncertain future that lies ahead. Perhaps one could label this as Education for Sustainability. That kind of education would link nature's big systems with classroom core curriculum to help solve the real problems we face today, which include challenges to sustainable water, food, energy, waste, and economic systems. Understanding Climate Change and its effects on our food system, stewarding eroding ecosystems (reef/coral, watershed/ROD, etc.) countering growing obesity and related chronic diseases, increasing opportunities for growing, culinary, and green jobs associated with Ecosystem Restoration, are but a few of the many reasons to support HB2215 HD1.

It makes the most sense to house this position in the Department of Education. Place the position in the Office of the Superintendent since there are multiple department overlaps with the breath of this job. The Agriculture Education Working Group is ready, willing, and able to assist and support educational services for our youth PreK-20.

What does agriculture have to do with sustainability you ask? Agriculture touches every system mentioned above and when you add in its supply chain is responsible for 51% of greenhouse gas emissions. However, if all our students in Hawai'i could learn to understand the concept of carbon sequestration in the soil, we could begin to offset global warming immediately and quantify it!

This Bill was written by those who have done the work, and we are now asking for your support to bring this all together and change the future of Hawaii to be a shining example of resilience and respect for our precious yet fragile ecosystem upon which all life rests. Mahalo for your Kokua.

Aloha, Nancy Redfeather

Director - Ka Ohana O Na Pua

Established in 1991; Bringing agricultural education to Hawai'i Island Keiki to Kupuna

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 2:50:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aisha Heredia       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **strong support of HB2215 HD1**, as our workforce needs a strong start--from grade school, through high school. We should be presenting our students options on what kinds of opportunities they can see themselves having a career within as early as possible.

I support **HB2215 HD1** because our agricultural sector should be one of these industries that develops a pathway for students to get their foot in the door while in public school by learning practical real world skills. State investment in teacher development and curricular integration around agriculture and food systems education through **HB2215 HD1** is critical at this time.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia



**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 11:25:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Kakazu          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha

Sam Kakazu

BEES>me

Agriculture and Pollinator Advocate

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 9:40:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2215 HD1, which establishes

and funds the Workforce Development Coordinator position within the Hawai'i Department of

Education (HIDOE) to implement the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide Plan (DC149, 2019).

I am submitting testimony as a long time educator in sustainability. I see the underlying problem is that we as Hawaii residents do not place enough value on agriculture and education. We need to raise more technologically savvy agriculturalists and support their work if we are to become self-sufficient. School learning gardens and farm to school are multi-disciplinary workforce pathways that promote higher order thinking skills, and proper work conduct.

As outlined in the DC149 report and provided for in HB2215 HD1, the Coordinator position is

essential for continuing and expanding this work to advance a coordinated statewide approach

to regenerating Hawaii's community food systems through agriculture and food systems education.

The primary focus of the Coordinator will be on teacher development, curricular integration,

and cultivation of agriculture educators. Central to the P-20 Agriculture Education Statewide

Plan is the task of infusing agriculture and food systems education into pre-service and in-

service teacher development programs across the state.

I support this Bill.

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 12:00:00 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/9/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cyd L. Hoffeld      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**I strongly support HB2215 HD1.**



March 8, 2020

To: Chair Kidani  
Vice Chair Mercado Kim  
Senate Committee on Education

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2215 HD1**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB2215 HD1. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower rates of obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease.

The workforce development coordinator would greatly increase exposure for students of all ages to agriculture education and drive career interest in agriculture and food systems. Additionally, agriculture education can improve personal well-being; Studies show that agriculture education, school gardens, and hands-on nutrition learning triples student consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunches<sup>1</sup> and increases access to low-fat fruits and vegetables at home.<sup>2</sup> Agriculture education can also play a critical role in shifting student's perceptions about healthy foods and provide opportunities for students to experience growing and cooking their own food. This bill will also lead to more teachers being trained in agriculture education, more local farms and farmers, and a stronger local food supply, all of which are extremely important for a sustainable and healthy future.

Agriculture education can help the families of Hawai'i enjoy healthier lifestyles, which is why Blue Zones Project strongly **support HB2215 HD1**. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2215 HD1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Takeda".

Colby Takeda, MPH, MBA  
Senior Manager  
Blue Zones Project Hawaii

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<sup>1</sup> Koch, P., Wolf, R., Graziose, M., Gray, H. L., Trent, R., & Uno, C. (2017) FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University.

<sup>2</sup> Wells, N. M., Meyers, B. M., Todd, L. E., Henderson, C. R., Barale, K., . . . Franz N. K. (2018). The carry-over effects of school gardens on fruit and vegetable availability at home: A randomized controlled trial with low-income elementary schools. *Prevention Medicine*, 112:152-159.

