



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

**Date:** 02/01/2021  
**Time:** 03:00 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0463 RELATING TO GARDENS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property. Authorizes the Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) provides comments on SB 463.

The Department agrees that students should engage in a well-rounded curriculum, with topics including nutrition and obesity prevention; composting and waste management techniques; and cultural and historical aspects of the local food supply. The Department is deeply committed to wellness, as demonstrated in Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) policy 103-1: Health and Wellness, and to 'āina-based education.

The Department has subject matter standards that include related concepts in content areas including Health, Science, and Social Studies. Existing Board policies 105-1: Academic Program; 105-2: Responsibility for Curriculum Development and Implementation; and 105-3: Curriculum outline the role of schools in making curricular and instructional decisions to provide a quality standards-based academic program that aligns and fits the needs of their school communities. According to the 2018–2019 Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), 87% of the participating schools reported they had culturally relevant activities that are 'āina-based and hands-on, such as food preparation, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens.

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. Every school in the Department can access supports within the tri-level system and through excellent stakeholder partnerships such as the Farm To School Hui.

Board policy 301-9: Sustainability includes a number of provisions that support the creation of school gardens on school properties. Decisions to create gardens fall under the purview of the school principal. However, large-scale land-use change may require collaboration with the Department's Office of Facilities and Operations and the surrounding community.

The Department respectfully requests greater clarity in whether administrative coordination with the Hawaii Community Development Authority will be required, the mechanisms for consultation with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the means for funding these potential school gardens, and the effect on current staffing as all of these elements may pose a considerable impact on our schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 463.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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February 1, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 463**  
RELATING TO GARDENS

Conference Room 229  
3:00 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 SB 463**, which authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property and authorizes the Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

HFB believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture. School garden programs achieve this by helping to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture through hands-on learning. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice.

By participating in school and community garden programs our children can gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture, adopt healthier eating habits, and develop stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children and residents about agriculture. School and Community gardens are tools that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed, farmers, consumers, and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**SB-463**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 5:15:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allix Hessick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I vote yes for this important curriculum to be introduced into the community

**LATE**

**SB-463**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:47:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Feena Bonoan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-463**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:47:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Feb. 1, 2021

Dear Legislators,

If we ever expect to "grow" more farmers in Hawaii, we will need an educational program complete with gardens in the schools. For that reason, I strongly support bill SB463.

Every year the Urban Garden Center (UGC) hosts classes of 5th graders from across O'ahu to spend a half day learning about soils, plants, gardening and the natural environment from CTAHR staff (College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources) and other community workers. As a member of the Master Gardener program in Hawaii, I have seen the interest, curiosity and enthusiasm of these kids year after year as they move excitedly from booth to booth gathering information about our natural world. Unfortunately for the students, this only happens on one day of one year in their school careers. Having gardens in the public schools and an educational program in place would make this information much more accessible and real to the students. It might even launch a career as a farmer, horticulturalist or scientist.

Additionally, gardens can be a first step to healthier living and eating. Many kids in Hawaii have limited outdoor time due to apartment and condo living. Being outside in a garden becomes a real treat and is naturally healing for some. Tasting fruits and veggies that are unfamiliar to them can develop new food preferences. And the fact that they grew them adds a sense of pride.

The pandemic is giving us a chance to think about and redo our public school priorities. Adding a garden curriculum seems like a perfect fit for what ails us. Let's start now.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please support Bill SB463.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

