

HB-1994-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:24:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Mamaki Ola Farm and Education, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Māmaki Ola Farm and Education, LLC supports HB1994 HD1. In partnership with several businesses, including Shaka Tea LLC and native plant nurseries, and funded by several Hawaii Community Foundation grants, Māmaki Ola LLC has been co-developing curriculum to plant native trees such as māmaki on school campuses that have the optimal climate for such trees. Native and endemic trees are a very important source of cultural knowledge. Futhermore, trees of all kinds are an integral part of farm to school programming in that they can provide food for school meals and tastings, #fixourfoodsystem, sequester carbon, as well as provide valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and P-20 agriculture education programs.

Mahalo nui loa,

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Māmaki Farmer and Māmaki Ola Farm and Education, LLC, co-owner

kohmingwei@gmail.com



Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 25, 2022 (11:00 a.m.)

RE: HB1994 HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, Members of the Committee on Finance:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a nonprofit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

TFHF strongly support the above-referenced Bill, which will establish an initiative, with funds and staffing, to promote the planting of shade trees and native plants program within the department of education.

We hear a lot about the need to take action on climate change and build resilience. Trees aren't the only solution, but they are one of many steps we can take today to have a positive impact today. Trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. Following are just a few:

- Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature.
- Trees recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs.
- Trees trap pollutants and store CO2.
- Trees help students learn better.
- Trees make human, and animals, happier and healthier.

Sadly though, Honolulu has been losing urban tree canopy over the past years. Schools are a particularly good place for more trees.

We urge this Committee to pass this Bill and send it on to the full House to pass Third Reading and transmittal to the Senate.

Thank you.

Daniel Dinell, President
Trees for Honolulu's Future

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353
P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

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Submitted on: 2/25/2022 3:50:01 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawai'i strongly supports this measure, which will help with climate mitigation by providing for shade trees and native plants at schools that sequester atmospheric carbon greenhouse gas, while providing valuable education to students about the value of trees.

Climate Protectors Hawaii (By Ted Bohlen)

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Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:05:18 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Press	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo!

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Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:53:25 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of Education has done a few studies over the past years on why trees should be planted on DOE campuses and one of the findings was that tree cover around buildings lessens interior heat in our subtropical environment. The cost difference between cooling classrooms with electricity or with open windows and more shade is stark. Tree assets on a school campus include a healthier shade for students, cooler buildings and grounds, cleaner water entering ground water as tree roots filter water, and increased oxygen.

Planting trees at schools helps beautify the community. They not only enrich the students and residents' lives, they enrich the earth that they now inhabit.

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Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:06:31 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zoe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must plant more trees! Not only is it better for our environment, and creates beauty on campuses (a place where our keiki spend a majority of their time), but they also provide opportunities for engaging, placed based learning opportunities. Fruit trees, native trees, and trees of all kinds are an integral part of farm to school programming in that they can provide food for school meals and tastings, as well as valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and P-20 agriculture education programs.

This is a win-win decision. Plant more trees AND create more sustainable jobs for our current young people and next generation - many of which are interested in food, agriculture, conservation and natural resource management but have limited opportunities here on the islands. As someone who has worked with Hawai'i youth for over 10 years I have seen the change in attitude and see the need for more opportunities like this.

Mahalo for your consideration!

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Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:45:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB1994 HD1 that establishes the shade trees and native plants program in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools. Please PASS this very worthwhile and important measure.

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 3:30:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wai Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 1994 is a good bill. But I did not see how the Farm to Table(FTT) coordinator gets to the program money to do the work.

I recommend the appropriation is allocated as a mini-grant program managed by the DOE arborist or his/her designate. The school admin. and the FTT coordinator can apply for the funding. The funding access process is documented. So the DOE arborist is involved from the beginning until the trees are hand-over for long-term maintenance.

All the shade or fruit tree planting projects are tracked and maintained, and the appropriation is accountable every year.

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 4:01:01 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John M. Knox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members --

I am John Knox, a Waimanalo resident and (though I write as an individual) a member of the Board of Directors for the nonprofit group Trees for Honolulu's Future.

This is all about increasing shade on school grounds and around playing fields for our kids and grandkids as the temperature climbs due to climate change. It is a common-sense measure.

I support and urge your passage of HB1994 HD1. Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 7:12:55 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lourdes millan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill we need more trees

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:39:00 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in strong support of this bill. This is a great opportunity for our schools, keiki, communities to learn from and develop appreciation of. As we know in Hawai‘i, our forests are threatened by so many invasive and introduced species, so helping to bring more light to that, should be our path. More shade trees are needed, and hopefully they can be native ones as well. Mahalo for considering this bill and please support it forward.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kimeona Kane

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:55:04 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
heidi kreul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. I believe it important to plant shade trees, fruit trees and native plants on school campuses.

mahalo nui loa,

Heidi kreul

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Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:52:06 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
stephanie frazier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure

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Submitted on: 2/25/2022 7:51:20 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

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Submitted on: 2/25/2022 7:57:28 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shari Grounds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1994! Mahalo!