



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

Date: 02/15/2022
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 Via Videoconference
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2013 RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. Makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2013.

The school garden coordinator position is essential to successfully implement the purposes of the Hawaii farm-to-school program set forth by Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 which include improving student health, developing an educated agricultural workforce, and accelerating garden- and farm-based education for public school students.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all students and schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2013.

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:49:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER

CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 15, 2022
2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 309 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

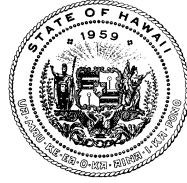
HOUSE BILL NO. 2013
RELATING TO THE SCHOOL GARDENS

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2013. The bill establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education (DOE). The bill also makes an appropriation to fund the position and other expenses associated with starting a school garden program. The Department of Agriculture (the Department) notes that developing an educated agricultural workforce is an important component in achieving the State's food production goals in the long term. The Department supports the intent of this measure and defers to the DOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2013
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022 Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of
3 Education (DOE) on the implementation of House Bill 2013 (H.B. 2013). DOH supports
4 H.B. 2013 that establishes a school garden coordinator in the DOE to provide technical support
5 and resources for schools interested in implementing a school garden program.

6 School gardens have been shown to improve student health and academic achievement,
7 provide positive learning environments for teachers and students, increase students consumption
8 of fresh fruits and vegetables, enhance the psychosocial development of youth and provide a
9 valuable tool in educational engagement.¹ In 2019, 31% of Hawaii high school students were
10 overweight or obese and in 2017, 28% of Hawaii middle school students were overweight.^{2,3}
11 Schools can play an integral role in changing behavior by shaping positive attitudes and beliefs
12 about food as well as enhancing access to nutritious foods. In a national study across eight
13 states, students in schools with more hands-on learning activities consumed three times the
14 amount of fruits and vegetables than students who received less hands-on learning.⁴ School
15 garden programs can provide the hands-on learning for students including activities like cooking
16 and gardening skills, instruction on the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, and how to
17 incorporate more of it into their diet.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None

¹ National Farm to School Network. (2016, May 24). Starting and Maintaining a School Garden. Retrieved February 2, 2022, from <https://www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/starting-and-maintaining-a-school-garden-1>.

² Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Overweight or obese, High Schools, State-level, 2019].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [2/02/2022]

³ Hawaii State Departments of Health and Education, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Youth Risk Behavior Survey. '[Overweight-student self described, Middle Schools, State, 2017].' Hawaii-IBIS <http://ibis.hhdw.org/ibisph-view>. Accessed on [2/02/2022].

⁴ Koch P, Wolf R, Graziose M, Gray HL, Trent R, and Uno C. FoodCorps: Creating Healthy School Environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University. February, 2017.

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:28:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I am available to answer questions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2013

February 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2013 establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent position for a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education to provide technical support and startup resources for schools interested in starting a school garden program and appropriates \$200,000 in general funds for FY 23.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 15, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. - Videoconference

RE: HB 2013 – Relating to School Gardens – Support

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 2013, which establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education (DOE) and makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

This bill and the position it funds are critical for the successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School program (Act 175, SLH 2021). While many DOE schools have learning gardens and farms, regular and equitable access to gardens and farm-based education for all students has not yet been achieved. School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, social and emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A‘o, and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.

This position will significantly build capacity within the DOE to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high quality gardens and farm-based educational programming. It will help develop student interest in agriculture and help the State move towards its goal of increasing local food production.

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

We respectfully request your support of HB 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com

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

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:18:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started (C4GTS) strongly supports HB2013 as a way to #fixourfoodsystem.

- This bill and the position it funds are critical for successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Act 175, 2021), toward the purpose of *accelerating garden and farm-based education for the State's public school students*, and **increasing student preference for locally grown and raised foods**.
- School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.
- While many HIDOE schools have learning gardens and farms, regular and equitable access to garden and farm-based education for all HIDOE students has not yet been achieved. This position will significantly build capacity within HIDOE to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high quality garden and farm-based educational programming. The current programming has been led by grassroots organizations including C4GTS.

Mahalo nui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org



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February 15, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2250
RELATING TO THE SCHOOL GARDENS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 2250, which establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education.

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 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 about agriculture. Creating a School Garden Coordinator position is a good step 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.



Date: February 14, 2022

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2013, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: February 15, 2022 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2013**, which establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education (HIDOE) and makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

This critical position will significantly build capacity within HIDOE to ensure **regular and equitable access for all students to high quality garden and farm-based education**, thus fulfilling two of five purposes of HIDOE's Hawai'i Farm to School Program, established by [Act 175 \(2021\)](#), by: 1) "accelerating garden and farm-based education for the State's public school students" and 2) "developing an educated agricultural workforce."

School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A'ō (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.¹

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities 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 and on-campus farms, 2) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates this Committee's strong support of accelerating garden and farm-based education for Hawaii's students, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing HB2013.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

¹ National Farm to School Network. The Benefits of Farm to School. May 2020.
https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:10:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Tiana Kamen and I direct a farm to early care and education program called Farm to Keiki. Over the past 12 years, I have worked alongside other farm to school organizations to build the farm to school movement as a nutritious and educational solution to many of the problems that Hawaii's children face. Gardens are critical in ensuring access to and education about healthy foods, while also providing opportunities for hands-on education. Nana I ke kumu - look to the source. Kumu in the Hawaiian language is a teacher... and kumu is also a tree. In the not so long ago past, the trees, the 'aina was considered as much or even more of a teacher as a person. The lessons children learn from the plants in a garden are limitless. Every school should have a garden, for there is a school in every garden. In a garden, our textbooks come to life and children are excited to learn.

While gardens are essential to learning and the health of children, they are not easy to maintain on school campus' without the strong support of higher administration and a backbone team. In the past, gardens were a main staple on almost every campus in Hawaii, providing food and education. Today, they are overlooked and do not get the support they need to thrive. I've seen over a decade of what happens without this support. It is an unnecessary struggle for the teachers, non-profits and faculty.

With this bill, we can make gardens a possibility for those schools that non-profits do not have the capacity to reach and for those schools who don't have the champion principals and faculty. The inequity is unfortunate. The children who need these gardens as refuges for food, peace and learning the most, are often the children who will never have access to one. The DOE can be that hero that brings school gardens to all children with the support of this bill. Every child deserves the opportunity to learn how to grow their own food and to have outdoor hands-on learning opportunities. This bill is essential to supporting successful gardening programs at EVERY school throughout the state.

Furthermore, there is the problem of childhood health and lack there of. 1 out of every 3 children is obese or overweight as they enter kindergarten (Pobutsky et. al, 2013). As a nutritionist, I focus on farm to early care as a means of promoting childhood health and preventing childhood obesity. Growing gardens on campus's are crucial to reverse the childhood obesity crises in Hawai'i and essential to inspiring children to eat healthy, locally grown foods. As the state pushes the Aina Pono program, and serves more locally grown foods in the cafeteria, we need our children to be excited about eating these local foods, and that it does not go to waste. Garden education is critical to the success of the Aina Pono program. You can not force children to eat these foods, but you can provide them experiences that help them to make healthier decisions.... decisions that they will need to continue to make as they get older... decisions that are critical to living a healthy life and not becoming one of the obesity or diabetes statistics that plagues our state.

In addition, this bill and the position it funds are critical for successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Act 175, 2021). We need to support bills like this to increase student preference for locally grown and raised foods. They are the future farmers, they are the future consumers. Without them, local agriculture and sustainability will fail.

This bill will change lives for the better and is worth every penny. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration to support this bill and being part of the change we all wish to see in this world.

Mahalo,

Tiana Kamen

Farm to Keiki, Director



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Date: February 15, 2022

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Chair Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Education

From: Sam Ullery, School Gardens Specialist, District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Re: COMMENTS on HB2013, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

As the School Gardens Specialist at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), I would like to thank you for this opportunity to **comment on HB2013** which establishes a School Garden Coordinator position within the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE).

OSSE is the State Education Agency for the District of Columbia charged with raising the quality of education for all DC residents. In 2011 OSSE established a School Gardens Program as required by the Healthy Schools Act¹. To oversee the program, a School Gardens Specialist position was created within OSSE's Division of Health and Wellness. The program is funded by the Healthy Schools Fund.

I have overseen the School Gardens Program since its inception in 2011 and have had the honor of working to ensure that all students in the District are engaged in quality school garden programs which are highly valued by teachers and fundamental to student learning in District schools, with a focus on at-risk students.

The OSSE School Gardens Program provides guidance and support for more than 100 schools with garden programs through funding, partnerships, and strategic support. The program priorities are:

- 1) Increase the number of students that are engaged in school garden programs;
- 2) Increase the number of classroom teachers that are including garden-based teaching into their teaching practice;
- 3) Increase the number of schools with garden programs; and
- 4) Provide high-quality data and analysis to school garden programs.

¹The D.C. Healthy Schools Act (DC Official Code: § 38-825.03) was passed unanimously by the D.C. Council in May 2010 and went into effect August 1, 2010.

As a result, we have seen:

- a 34% increase² in the number of schools with garden programs from the 2011-12 to the 2019-20 school year.
- A 73% increase³ in the number of teachers engaged⁴ in garden-based teaching from the 2016-17 to the 2019-20 school year.
- Teachers engaged⁵ an average of 14,637 students⁶ each school year in garden-based learning.
- The school garden grant supported 81 school gardens by awarding \$2,518,551.03 in grant funds over eight years⁷. Most of the funds went towards staffing garden educators who provide garden-based teaching to students and support classroom teachers that use the garden as a teaching tool.

My hope is that all students will have access to high-quality garden-based learning. This is an opportunity for Hawaii to join DC in leading the way toward this important goal by establishing a School Garden Coordinator position within the Hawaii Department of Education.

Please feel free to contact me at Sam.Ullery@dc.gov or (202) 341-0791 with any questions.

Thank you for your time,



Sam Ullery
School Gardens Specialist
DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education

² The number of schools reporting garden programs was 82 during the 2011-12 school year and was 110 in the 2019-20 school year. [Healthy School Act 2020 Report pg. 23 Fig. E](#)

³ OSSE began collecting data on the number of teachers engaged in garden-based teaching during the 2016-17 school year. There were 453 teachers engaged during 2016-17 school year and 787 teachers during the 2019-20 school year. [Healthy Schools Act 2017 Report pg. 19](#) [Healthy Schools Act 2020 Report pg. 24 fig. G](#).

⁴ A teacher is considered engaged when at least five garden-based lessons are taught in a school year.

⁵ A student is considered engaged when exposed to 10 or more hours of garden-based education per school year.

⁶ OSSE began collecting data on student engagement in school gardens starting during the 2016-17 school year. 14,430 students engaged during the 2016-17 school year ([Healthy Schools Act 2017 Report pg. 19](#)); 14,617 students engaged during the 2017-18 school year ([Healthy Schools Act 2018 Report pg. 22](#)); 15,142 students engaged during the 2018-19 school year; 14,362 students engaged during the 2019-20 school year ([Healthy Schools Act 2020 Report Fig. F, pg. 24](#)).

⁷ The OSSE School Gardens Program has administered the School Garden Grant (SGG) every fiscal year since 2012, except for fiscal year 2017, 2021, and 2022 due to grant restructuring and funding limitations.

HB-2013

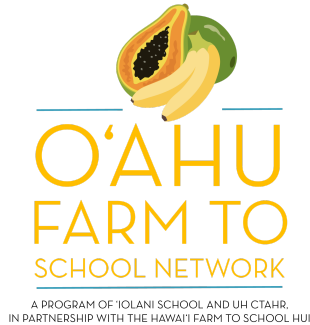
Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:17:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

A School Garden Coordinator in the Department of Education is absolutely necessary for the DOE to fulfill its mandate in Act 175. There must be a Staff Position in the Department for Principals to know that the DOE supports Garden based Learning. I think many of them are poised to give more resources and time to such a program but need to know that DOE stands behind those decisions, and a Staff position will send a clear message. Our keiki and youth need real life education that will help prepare them for the very complex and uncertain world that is coming toward them. Understanding the food system, understanding how to make healthy decisions (33% of all Kindergarten students are overweight or obese) connecting with environmental stewardship & understanding climate change and sustainability, etc. are critical subjects for 21st Century learners. Mahalo!



Date: Feb. 14, 2022
To: EDN-HSG
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2013
Hearing: Feb. 15, 2022, 2pm

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2013** Establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education and makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

Founded in 2012 and coordinated through 'Iolani School, the Oahu Farm to School Network (OFSN) works to strengthen farm to school programs on O'ahu through networking school garden support organizations, administering professional development, and coordinating programs that support school gardens and farm to school efforts. We need to better coordinate these community efforts directly with the Department of Education in order to fully establish the programs in all schools in an equitable and fully accessible manner. This bill and the position it funds are critical for successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Act 175, 2021), toward the purpose of "accelerating garden and farm-based education for the State's public school students," and increasing student preference for locally grown and raised foods.

OFSN is in strong support of this bill.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to submit testimony. I respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee.

Mahalo,

Deborah S. Millikan

Debbie Millikan, Ph.D.
Oahu Farm to School Network

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 2:00:26 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Levine	Hawaii Youth Food Council	Support	Yes

Comments:





Date: 2/14/2022

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Education (EDN)

From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council

Re: SUPPORT for HB2013, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: 2/15/2022 at 2pm

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2013, which establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education and makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses.

This position will improve the quality of learning for students, and help to accomplish the purposes of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program (improving student health, developing an educated agricultural workforce, and accelerating garden and farm-based education for public school students). Schools that do not currently participate in a garden program will also be provided necessary start-up funds.

Given that the environment plays a crucial role in Hawaii's history, culture, and lifestyles, it is imperative that a curriculum that incorporates education about the environment and agriculture is implemented within the state. Gardens are an amazingly enriching opportunity for students of all ages to develop critical skills not taught in traditional classroom settings and learn more about the land that they live and learn on. Lessons can stretch from biological analyses of different living organisms to the history of traditional Hawaiian food and food systems. An expanded curriculum that involves natural learning environments may also improve students' health—both mental and physical. Spending time outdoors in a relaxed setting has been proven to improve one's mental state, which will in turn allow for a healthier body.

With so many benefits to implementing a school garden, we Hawai'i students believe that a School Garden Coordinator should be made a permanent and necessary position within the Department of Education's Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design. It would be highly beneficial for not only the students, but also the community as a whole, providing new job opportunities for adults and learning opportunities for youths.

(Continued on next page)

The Hawai'i Youth Food Council is a program of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and Hawai'i Public Health Institute, and includes students from public, charter, and

independent high schools across Hawai‘i. The council was established in 2020 to engage and empower youth in the process of rewriting the present narrative of Hawaii’s food system. Members identify and address systemic issues that exist throughout various dimensions of the food chain to promote community participation in the formation of resilient, equitable local food economies.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen, Punahou School

BJ Miranda, West Hawai‘i Explorations Academy

Chay Cunningham, Maryknoll High School

Gigi Kiyabu, Mid Pacific Institute

Grace Monaco, ‘Iolani School

Hannah Apostol, Waipahu High School

Jaden Joy Rosabia, Kealakehe High School

Marianel Carmen, Maui High School

Mia Torres, James Campbell High School

Rona Lei Duldulao, McKinley High School

Tyler Levine, Oak Meadows Homeschool

Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools



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Executive Officers

Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schliff, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO:

Committee on Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee on Housing
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 15, 2022
TIME: 2pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB2013 Relating to School Gardens

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to establish a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. School gardens and a school garden coordinator are an important component of the success of the Farm to School program.

This position will significantly build capacity within the DOE to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high quality gardens and farm-based educational programming. It will help develop student interest in agriculture and help the State move towards its goal of increasing local food production. We urge the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Committees on Education and Housing
The Hawaii State House of Representatives
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 2013 & HB2250 Testimony

February 11, 2022

Dear Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and esteemed members of the House Committees on Education and Housing,

I SUPPORT WITH BILL [HB2013](#) and [HB2250](#), which seek to develop a gardening program and appoint a gardening program coordinator for Department of Education (DOE) schools.

My name is Erika Molyneux, and I am a resident of Kaneohe and a mother of an elementary student at Kapunahala Elementary School. As someone interested in my own children's health and education as well as the state's fiscal responsibility in stewarding taxpayer money, I see only benefits in investing in our local agriculture education, and teaching our children to help create their own food security and thus move our island toward self-sustainability. Additionally, gardening is linked to improved emotional and mental health and is an important component of Hawaiian culture. Furthermore, I am impressed that these bills are likely to contribute to neighborhood beautification, lowered health costs, better nutrition, and added recreation and life skills for our keiki.

For all these reasons, I strongly support PASSING BILLS [HB2013](#) and [HB2250](#). Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Molyneux', written in a cursive style.

Erika Molyneux

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 8:24:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristin Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to support school garden related programs, including paid positions to run these programs. Our youth need to learn where food comes from, get their hands dirty, and help grow food. This will create pride in our students, natural physical activity opportunities, and creation of healthy food. With a high dependence on shipping food from the mainland (along with rising prices and shipping costs), Hawaii needs more future farmers so we can grow food here year round. School garden programs can also pique interest in farming in these youth and young adults. Our youth and our community need school gardens. Please support HB2013.

Mahalo, Kristin Mills

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:07:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

- This bill and the position it funds are critical for the successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Act 175, 2021), toward the purpose of "accelerating garden and farm-based education for the State's public school students," and increasing student preference for locally grown and raised foods.
- School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social-emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.
- While many HIDOE schools have learning gardens and farms, regular and equitable access to the garden and farm-based education for all HIDOE students has not yet been achieved. This position will significantly build capacity within HIDOE to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high-quality garden and farm-based educational programming.

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:57:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support this legislation that secures a critical position to coordinate strategic plans aimed at creating more quality school gardens that develop skills, healthier lifestyles and palates and integrates a number of academic content areas.

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:41:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zoe	Mala'ai	Support	No

Comments:

Māla'ai strongly supports this bill. As a non-profit We operate the Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School and lead the Hawaii Island School Garden Network. Several reasons for our support are listed below:

This bill and the position it funds are critical for successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Act 175, 2021), toward the purpose of "accelerating garden and farm-based education for the State's public school students," and increasing student preference for locally grown and raised foods.

- School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A'ō (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.
- While many HIDOE schools have learning gardens and farms, regular and equitable access to garden and farm-based education for all HIDOE students has not yet been achieved. This position will significantly build capacity within HIDOE to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high quality garden and farm-based educational programming.

HB-2013

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:51:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

Marian Huff