



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2182, S.D. 1, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 05, 2022

Room Number: 308 and Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Education  
2 (DOE) on the fiscal implications of the proposed measure and the priorities of the Executive  
3 Supplemental Budget request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The DOH defers to the DOE on the implementation of Senate Bill  
5 2182, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 (S.B. 2182, S.D. 1, H.D. 1). The DOH supports S.B. 2182,  
6 S.D. 1, H.D. 1 that establishes a school garden coordinator in the DOE to provide technical  
7 support and resources for schools interested in developing a school garden program.

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

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2 **Offered Amendments:** None

---

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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]

<sup>3</sup> 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].

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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 FINANCE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2182, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

**April 5, 2022**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

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

Senate Bill No. 2182, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, 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 an unspecified sum of 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.



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

**Date:** 04/05/2022

**Time:** 01:30 PM

**Location:** 308 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2182, SD1, HD1 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. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2182, SD1, HD1.

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 in support of SB 2182, SD1, HD1.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Wilson  
President

Jonathan Sudler  
Vice President

Kathy Whitmire  
Treasurer

Paula Ress  
Secretary

Diane Harding  
Branch Representative

Denise Soderholm, Advisor

Directors:

Gordon Aoyagi

Kathleen Bryan

Mimi Bornhorst Gaddis

Joan Gossett

Cheryl Langton

Maureen Murphy

## BRANCHES

### Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Kona

Waikoloa Village

Waimea

### Kaua'i

### O'ahu

East Honolulu

Lani-Kailua

Mānoa

North Shore

Greater Waikiki

## STAFF

Winston Welch  
Executive Director

Jacqueline Wah  
Operations Director

Myles Ritchie  
Programs Director

Helping to keep Hawai'i  
clean, green, beautiful,  
livable and sustainable  
since 1912

April 3, 2022

RE: The Outdoor Circle STRONG SUPPORT of SB2182 SD1 HD1 Establishing a School Garden Coordinator Position within the State DOE

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

The Outdoor Circle has for 110 years advocated for the protection, preservation and promotion of Hawaii's natural and scenic beauty. Part of our mission includes educational activities, especially that of education of children in caring for our island home.

Many children today live in places where they do not have a yard or garden to learn to grow plants, whether edible or for beauty, and even for those that do, having a more formal learning environment that is fostered by the educational system is one vital way that we can help connect the keiki of today into citizens and leaders of tomorrow. The DOE would greatly benefit from a School Garden Coordinator to assist schools statewide to facilitate lessons, policies and practices to be implemented so that students can learn respect for the land, where and how food is grown, how to grow plants for beauty, and participate meaningfully in hands-on work that provides a critical link to the natural world so often lacking in today's modern life.

We hope to see the DOE robustly expand its offerings to children beyond this endeavor to more deeply connect them with nature and the special environment of Hawaii, understanding plant food cultivation, composting and life cycles inherent in these activities. Our schools should all include large gardens where students can learn to connect with the land, learn how to grow food and cultivate plants which beautify our islands.

It is for this and other important reasons that The Outdoor Circle STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2182 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Winston Welch  
Executive Director



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
April 5, 2022 – 1:30 p.m. – Videoconference  
**Agenda #1**

**RE: SB 2182 SD1 HD1 – Relating to School Gardens –  
In Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports SB 2182 SD1 HD1, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi  
808-544-8345  
[kmatsuyoshi@wik.com](mailto:kmatsuyoshi@wik.com)



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

April 5, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2182, SD1, HD1**  
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2182, SD1, HD1**, 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 on 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i's agricultural industry in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 11:19:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Individuals, Principals, community organizations, non-profits, Hawai'i Island and Maui County governments, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Institute of Public Health, Kamehameha Schools, and many public, charter and private schools in Hawai'i have been working to build a school garden program that could be used by the faculty for hands on learning across subject areas. We know that Hawaii's students learn best when they are engaged with experiential learning, and the Outdoor Learning Garden provides the perfect place for these interactions to occur. Garden Curriculums (K-12) for Hawaii's Students have been written connecting learning to the Common Core Standards, the USDA funded a School Garden Teacher Training & Certification Program, there is ongoing PDE3 courses for teachers to take for credit, the University has built a teaching garden for pre-service teachers, care of the garden has been linked to FISMA's food safety standards, a garden to Cafeteria Program has been put into place, but still after 15 years of investment and work and millions of dollars of funding coming from federal and local foundations, the DOE still does support or advocate for this kind of learning for Hawaii's keiki and youth. That is why this Bill is so imperative. Principals need to know that the DOE supports garden based/'aina based learning before they move to build programs. Having a School Garden Specialist in DOE says, "we support this kind of learning." Please help the next generations in Hawaii connect with their food system, their ecosystem, sustainability, and their climatic future. Mahalo!!



Date: April 4, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1 HD1, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: April 5, 2022 at 1:30pm Via Videoconference

---

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2182 SD1 HD1**, 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'o (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.<sup>1</sup>

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 its support by passing this bill.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> National Farm to School Network. The Benefits of Farm to School. May 2020.  
[https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff\\_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf)

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 1:21:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started (C4GTS) strongly supports SB2182 SD1 as 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 academic skills and 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. Currently, much of the teacher and curriculum development for agriculture education, including facilitating HIDOE PDE3 courses is conducted by

grassroots organizations such as the Hawai‘i Farm to School Hui in partnership with non-profits such as C4GTS. It is time the state steps up and takes the lead on this.

Mahalo nui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD.

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator [mingwei@c4gts.org](mailto:mingwei@c4gts.org)



Date: 4/4/2022  
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance (FIN)  
From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council  
Re: **SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1 HD1**  
Hearing: **4/5/2022, Tuesday at 1:30PM via Videoconference**

---

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB2182 SD1 HD1**, 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).

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.

Thank you very much for your support of garden-based learning for all students. We respectfully request that you please pass this bill.

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 Meadow Homeschool  
Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 1:36:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I am the director a Farm to Keiki, a statewide farm to early care organization that was established in 2010. Over the years I have seen the power that school gardens have on improving children's academic achievement, willingness to eat healthy foods and connection to the aina, environment and sustainability efforts. At the same time, I've seen how difficult it is to maintain gardens at schools without the support of a school garden coordinator. Gardens often only exist in schools with a special teacher who loves gardening or one with extra resources and support. Many other schools still do not have a garden.

The school garden movement has been cultivated and strongly supported from grassroots organizations for the past decade. It's time that our state departments step up and provide the funding needed to sustain this movement that has proven to be vital in the lives of children and the future of Hawaii. School gardens are a crucial element to providing quality education for children. I strongly support this bill and urge you to provide the ways and means to bring it to fruition so all of our keiki can benefit from a school garden.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and helping grow healthy, brilliant and strong keiki.

Aloha,

Tiana Kamen

Farm to Keiki, Director



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

**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 Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 5, 2022  
TIME: 1:30pm  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2182 SD1 HD1 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



## Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

April 4, 2022

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: SB2182 SD1HD1 **Support**

Aloha mai kākou,

We're writing on behalf of the Food+ Policy Internship to express our SUPPORT for **SB2182 SD1**, Relating to School Gardens. Thank you for allocating time to read through our support for establishing a School Garden Coordinator within the DOE.

The School Garden Coordinator position is critical to significantly build capacity to successfully implement the purposes of the Hawaii farm-to-school program set forth by Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021. It includes improving student health, developing agricultural workforce, accelerating hands-on garden and farm-based practices for public school students. A Report done by FoodCorps shows students in schools with more hands on learning activities are eating triple the amount of fruits and vegetables than students who receive less on hands-on-learning (Koch et al, 2017)

These outdoor garden classrooms have shown positive improvement in student health, and academic achievement. It will build capacity towards a more equitable education system that is of high quality, build avenues for future farmers, and increase student preference for locally produced food. When our future leaders (children) are educated about agriculture, we can move forward to create intellectual space (Feenstra et al, 2002), that we all can build off towards a better collective future for Hawaii.

Thank you for reading through our testimony.

Mahalo,  
Hawai'i Food+ Policy Interns

---

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.





# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

#fixourfoodsystem

## References

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

Feenstra, G. (2002). Creating space for sustainable food systems: Lessons from the field. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 19(2), 99-106.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gail\\_Feenstra/publication/225887503\\_Creating\\_Space\\_for\\_Sustainable\\_Food\\_Systems\\_Lessons\\_from\\_the\\_Field/links/55353d1f0cf20ea35f10d39f.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gail_Feenstra/publication/225887503_Creating_Space_for_Sustainable_Food_Systems_Lessons_from_the_Field/links/55353d1f0cf20ea35f10d39f.pdf)

National Farm to School Network. The Benefits of Farm to School. May 2020.  
[https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff\\_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf)

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

---

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 8:50:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill - if we do not educate the younger generation on the need and desire to be a farmer in Hawai'i, there will be no future for this.

Mahalo,  
Elizabeth Hansen  
registered voter, Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2022 9:12:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill - if we do not educate the younger generation on the need and desire to be a farmer in Hawai'i, there will be no future for this.

Mahalo,  
Rodger Hansen  
Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 11:17:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2182 SD1 HD1 to establish a School Garden Coordinator position within the Department of Education, and thereby to ensure regular and equitable access for all students to high quality garden and farm-based education. Please pass this important measure. Mahalo.

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 7:49:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill that will help get more keiki out in the fresh air, working with the 'aina, and learning how to farm and feed themselves.

I urge you to pass SB2182.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez

Kapa'a, Kaua'i

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 11:24:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabriel Grosshuesch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou Representatives of the House Finance Committee. I am submitting this written testimony today to show my support for SB2182 and encourage you to pass this bill, but also to maybe go further! ( I am writing to you as an individual.)

My name is Gabriel Grosshuesch and as a newcomer to the school garden educator world, I can firmly say that having someone in the State/Department of Education who can help direct efforts and legislation, curriculum etc is 100% essential to the success of the school garden movement.

Before and during the first year of the Pandemic I was working in the tourism industry, in the guest relations/concierge side of things. I enjoyed my job but I wasn't really using my college degrees or doing something that I loved. Having a background in Environmental Studies and Education with passions for cooking, nature, gardening, and teaching I was not really meeting my full potential. Hence why I decided to start looking for more meaningful work for myself.

After a few months, through the connections of a dear friend of mine I stumbled into the non-profit Mala`ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School. I was in a period of transition and it so happened that the non-profit was also in a period of transition. It was undergoing a directional and management change as well as taking on the leadership of the Hawai`i Island School Garden Network. As I became involved with the program I fell in love with the garden and the work immediately. Discovering a job that would allow me to educate future generations on the importance of food sustainability while also nurturing a healthy relationship with the aina was something I didn't think I would come across so quickly. However, Mala`ai really has proved to me that the work school gardens do is tangible, practical and extremely important.

I would like to share with you some aspects of why I think School Gardens are the bees knees.

#1. The first aspect is that school gardens provide a living and breathing classroom for which students can use to rationalize things that they have learned in their indoor classrooms. As the garden changes with the seasons and is in a constant state of flux, it is the perfect location for such conversations and realizations to take place. Many of our students who come out are science students so they are using practical skills they learned in the classroom, in real life in the garden. This kind of 'learning-to-application' is really beneficial to our students and can leave them remembering complex science theories easier and with more completion. Our program also offers the space for non-science classes to come out. We have students from Creative Writing classes and Ike Hawaii classes join us in the garden plus more. School gardens can wear multiple

masks as they serve as highly versatile classrooms, meeting the needs of not just their science students but all students of the school.

#2. The second aspect is that school gardens function as a positive force on the mental and physical wellbeing of our students. The connection between aina and people is very important in the battle against climate change and it starts with our keiki. School Gardens by the nature of them being open planted spaces act as immediate oxygen sinks, giving our students a breath of fresh air. They provide students with a safe and calm space where they may learn and grow as individuals with their own relationship to the aina. School Gardens foster the atmosphere where students can learn scholastically and grow personally at the same time. Many times students have come out to the garden and said to me, " Mr. G I have been waiting to be out here all day, the garden makes me feel calm." In our fast paced technological world, giving keiki a chance to pause during the school day and really connect with nature is so critical. I can see the change in my students, the way their faces light up when they come to the garden. They love the flowers, the birds, the bees, the fresh produce, the snacks, the colors and the scents. School Gardens are more than just educational, they are also inspirational.

#3. The third aspect is that by nature school gardens deal with the production of food. As such the growing, harvesting, processing, cooking, and consumption of food is all part of the school garden experience. Having students participate in the process of putting food on the table can help them understand where their food comes from. How it is produced, who produces it and what goes into that labour. Educating keiki on sustainable food practices at an earlier age is going to lead to an overall healthier society. What we consume has a direct effect on our overall health and for students their ability to learn and retain information. Having access and the chance to grow and eat their own food, students can learn who to create a healthier lifestyle for themselves. At our garden we host cooking lessons and demonstrations. Which also provides our students with tangible life skills in cooking should they choose to pursue the culinary arts. This is a prime example of how school gardens also act as a space for career development and helping to support students' interests. School Gardens who provide food for their students to consume in class or in the cafeteria are helping to foster a healthier student youth population. It is known that having a healthy and stable diet is conducive to positive learning and retaining information. School Gardens can provide nutrient rich locally sourced crops for consumption by students. Helping to encourage healthier eating habits in students and providing them with filling delicious meals to encourage healthy studying and learning habits as well.

It is because of these three aspects that I think School Gardens are absolutely necessary and should have the full support of the State of Hawai`i Department of Education. This is why I support SB2182, because establishing a School Garden Coordinator type role in the DOE will ensure that this movement doesn't die away but instead gains a solid foothold state curriculum. It'll give school gardens the chance to have a more direct voice in the policies that may affect the work that we do for the keiki of Hawai`i.

Before I conclude my testimony I would like to offer up a suggestion for this committee to ponder and maybe task or defer to another committee to look into in the future. So here is my suggestion.- Having a school coordinator in the DOE would be SO amazing, but what would be even better is having FOUR School Garden Coordinators in the DOE. One coordinator would be designated to each of the four counties so that the needs of those counties' school gardens may be

more adequately addressed. The school gardens in the County of Hawai`i may have needs that are quite different than the gardens in schools in the City and County of Honolulu.

In conclusion I would like to thank you for your consideration of this bill and for moving it through the legislature thus far. I would like to thank you for reading my testimony and allowing me to submit. Please consider moving this legislation forward because it will lead to happy and healthier keiki which in the long run will lead to a happier and healthier Hawai`i.

Mahalo Nui Loa!-Gabriel



**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:51:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

I stand in strong support of measure SB2182. The time is now to start investing into our future and our Keiki to have an equitable agriculture education.

Me ke aloha,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

#Fixourfoodsystem

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 11:46:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristin Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kristin Mills, and I am a resident of Pukalani on the island of Maui. As a parent and a health educator on Maui, I am in strong support of SB2182. This bill and the position it funds, a HIDOE School Garden Coordinator, is critical for the successful implementation of a Hawaii Farm to School Program.

School gardens and farms contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety, social emotional learning... The list goes on. Most importantly, our youth need to learn WHERE food comes from and that they can actually grow food themselves.

Please support SB2182.

Mahalo,

Kristin Mills

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:39:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

As a fourth grade teacher at Mililani Mauka along with my students and the support of the principal, Carol Peterson, we created a school garden of native Hawaiian plants. The students researched and planned the space using math, science, language skills. They determined the dimensions, materials and learned how to take care of the garden. Through Mrs. Peterson's resourcefulness, we gained assistance from the community for the wall and watering system. I can't even begin to tell you the impact that this garden had on my students throughout the years academically, physically and socially. The joy and learning that occurred was something that none of us will forget. When I retired, other teachers continued the garden.

I am sharing the above with you because I have to tell you that creating this garden with my students was done basically in isolation. There was no one to collaborate with, no assistance from the district with resources or ideas and at times became a lonely endeavor. Advocating for the resources, curriculum and time with others is integral to the growth of school gardens. I believe that if there had been a person from the district as described in this bill it would have enhanced the experience greatly for my students. To have someone available for support, resources and making connections would have been invaluable to me.

Please support and pass this bill.

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:56:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As an alumnus of HIDOE K-12 education, I strongly support this effort to better coordinate and organize school garden programs, insofar as it supplements and strengthens such programs rather than adding tediousness and bureaucracy.

Mahalo,  
Dylan Ramos  
96816

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 2:16:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2182 SD1 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Lisa DeSantis

Waimea, Hawai'i Island

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 4:21:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Espie Chapman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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.

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 4:22:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill and the HIDOE School Garden Coordinator 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.

Please vote in support of SB2182 SD1 HD1, to support a HIDOE School Garden Coordinator. We need one now more than ever. Mahalo nui!

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 8:11:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julian Walstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a DOE educator, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that aina-based pedagogy can have on children of all ages. We are all looking for ways to educate our children and future generations so that they are prepared for the challenges of life. The tools they will need are embedded in gardens along with authentic learning experiences.

Nature provides the best learning environment where learners can engage and grow with the world around them. Our islands are unique and allow for year round-growing and learnig to take place. That all begins with the passing of this bill in order to engrave the position within the DOE and set the precedent for future school gardens.

In 2018, I was invited to speak at the legislative breakfast in support of school gardens. My testimony spoke of the ways that children of all abilitiies, ethnicities, socioeconomic status, and education proficiency can gain new perpscetives and enhance their self-worth and learning through aina-based pedagogy.

It is time for Hawaii to be a leader in school garden education. The passing of this bills helps bring the foundation we need to build upon for future generations. Please do the right thing and fund this bill as the seeds of learning will be planted and continue to grow for all to enjoy.

Mahalo nui.



**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 6:33:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaui Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Finance Committee-

While many HIDOE schools have learning gardens and farms, access to garden and farm-based education for all HIDOE students has NOT been achieved. This school garden coordinator 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.

Let's make sure our keiki know how to grow the plants which grow food.  
me ka pono,

Kaui

**SB-2182-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 11:40:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a 4th generation homesteader, my children are the next learning how important farming and raising our own food is. We are in full support of SB2182. This type of education needs to be available and continue for all keiki! We need the positions to make this happen.

mahalo,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino

Ho'olehua, Moloka'i