



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

Date: 03/22/2022

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: SB 2182, SD1 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. (SD1)

Department's Position:

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

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.

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
SENATE BILL NO. 2182, S.D. 1

March 22, 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.

Senate Bill No. 2182, S.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:

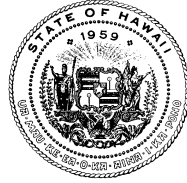
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

Room Number: 309 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 (S.B. 2182, S.D. 1). The DOH supports S.B. 2182, S.D. 1 that establishes a
6 school garden coordinator in the DOE to provide technical support and resources for schools
7 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.¹ In 2019, 31% of Hawaii high school students were
12 overweight or obese and in 2017, 28% of Hawaii middle school students were overweight.^{2,3}
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.⁴ 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

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.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:44:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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



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March 22, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2182, SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

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 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, 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 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.



Date: March 21, 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 SB2182 SD1, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: March 22, 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 SB2182 SD1**, 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 its support by passing this bill.

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



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 EDUCATION
March 22, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. - Videoconference

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

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

The Local Food Coalition supports SB 2182 SD1, 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'ō, 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



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

March 21, 2022

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and the House Committee on Education

Subject: SB2182 SD1 **Support**

Aloha,

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 an educated agricultural workforce, and accelerating hands-on garden and farm-based education for public school students. Opening up countless benefits for students, farmers and the community (National Farm to school network, 2020).

These outdoor classrooms will not only work towards improving the agricultural workforce but to give all students the knowledge they need in order to grow their own food at home. This is important as Hawaii remains 85 percent plus food import dependent upon the continent. These outdoor learning environments bring focus on the technical side of the food system through applied hands-on learning that works to build individual consciousness.

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 and the partnership of other nonprofits. It would be the pinnacle change for the future of Hawaii. The time is now to start investing into our children's education and the future of Hawaii's food system.

Thank you for allotting us the time to write in support of **SB2182** and its central role in protecting students' health through increased access to nature, and bring importance to why it is critical to provide technical support and startup resources for schools who are willing to implement school garden programs.

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

Mahalo,
Hawai'i Food+ Policy Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

References

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

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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.



Date: 3/21/2022
To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education
From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council
Re: **SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1**
Hearing: **3/22/2022, Tuesday at 2:00PM via Videoconference**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB2182 SD1**, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:34:40 PM

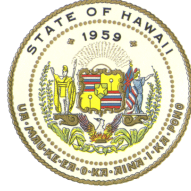
Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support the establishment of a School Garden Coordinator within the DOE.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
(Temporality Assigned)**

**Before the House Committee on
EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 309

**In support of
Senate Bill 2182, Senate Draft 1
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS**

Senate Bill 2182 Senate Draft 1 establishes a School Garden Coordinator position within the Department of Education and makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses. **The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

Increasing the amount of food that is produced and consumed locally is a vital part of moving toward a climate ready Hawaii. The Commission recognizes the important role that education plays in perpetuating local food production. In its March 2021 working paper, *Nature-Based Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Hawaii*, the Commission notes that locally produced agriculture is a vital part of our economy and emphasizes its importance in achieving our net-negative carbon economy. Creating a School Garden Coordinator position will enable support future careers in agriculture and promote the growth and consumption of local foods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM



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Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
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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 Economic Development
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 22, 2022

TIME: 2pm

PLACE: Via Videoconference

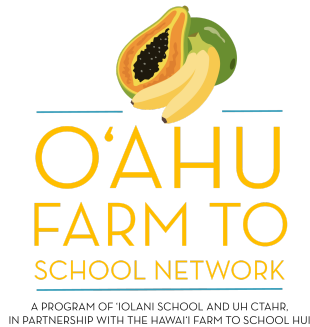
RE: SB2182 SD1 Relating to School Gardens

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



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Education
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1
Hearing: March 22, 2022, 2pm

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2182 SD1** 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 SB2182

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

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

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:35:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support this bill because it creates a critical position towards facilitating the establishment and maintainance of a comprehensive school food system, set up by Act 175.

There was breakthrough legislation in 2021 and bills authored this session to begin implementaion of a system that will provide increased access to fresh, local, more palatable, nutritious and safe food to our keiki, faculty and staff in schools as we build agricultural capacity in our state.

Mahalo

Sam K. - retired farmer, retired HIDOE, former USDA/NASDA, Hawaii Farm to School Hui member

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:33:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill so our children can have the education they need for the 21st century.
#fixourfoodsystem

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:07:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2182.

Thank you for considering this bill.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:09:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Robello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to write in strong support of this bill. Farm base education is so important for the State's students. School gardens lead to increased engagement in learning, academic achievement, and social/emotional learning, and locally grown foods. It is important for students to understand and learn this given our current economic environment we live in today.

Please consider this bill for the benefit of Hawai'i's education and for the future of the keiki of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Crystal

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:39:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2182 SD1

- 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.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:36:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and the House Committee on Education

Subject: SB2182 SD1 SUPPORT

Aloha mai Kākou,

My name is Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku. Home for me is Waianae. I grew up in the public school system and was lucky to have experienced school gardens in the Intermediate and High school level. These experiences gathered has changed my life tremendously and helped me forge the love and passion i have for native plants, food, and food systems. As i grew older, I've quickly learned not all schools had programs that supported the growing of your own food and teaching about the food system. I find it very important that students know about our food system as early as possible. So that they can participate in changing things like being food import dependent on the continent and building resiliency within our food system in the case of a disaster. To which **the School Garden Coordinator position is critical to create as the position will significantly lead this capacity I am talking about.** Could we please start investing our time and energy into our youth and future.

Thank you for reading through my testimony that strongly stands in **SUPPORT of SB2182 SD1**

#Fixourfoodsystem

#Holomua

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:47:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EDN Committee Members,

My name is Andrea Snow and I live, work and vote on Maui. I have worked in public schools and with community programs supporting healthy youth and families for over 10 years. I have been a school garden teacher, and now work in public health. I strongly support SB2182 to create a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education.

This bill is a necessary step in giving children regular and equitable access to hands-on food education. Kids from low-income areas will especially benefit from more garden and farm-based education at school. 80% of chronic disease is preventable, but only if we know how to move and eat well, and have the opportunity to do so. While the DOE is not the department of everything, it is the department of education, and if you ask any healthcare provider, they will tell you that Hawaii students need better food, health, and sustainability education. This bill will help build the foundation for better health for Hawaii students, and inspire more engagement with nature at school. Please support it.

Mahalo for your time,

Andrea Snow