

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2182, S.D. 1

February 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 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:

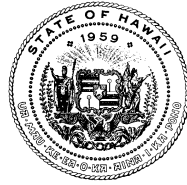
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 24, 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 Senate Bill 2182, Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 2182, S.D. 1).
4 The DOH supports S.B. 2182, S.D. 1 that establishes a school garden coordinator in the DOE to
5 provide technical support and resources for schools interested in developing a school garden
6 program.

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



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

Date: 02/24/2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

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.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 7:50:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:37:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Arwen Revere	Testifying for Wild Kids	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Arwen Revere and I am a high school student representing the environmental organization Wild Kids. Wild Kids is in strong support of SB2182 SD1 as we believe that it would be highly beneficial to increase the use of outdoor spaces in education. School gardens not only teach children about food and where it comes from but can also give them the skills they need to grow their own food. Schools play a critical role in molding children's perceptions of food and improving access to healthy foods. Teaching kids where our food comes from can help them to develop a healthy relationship with it. "Green spaces" such as school gardens have also shown support positive mental health in youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Arwen Revere on behalf of Wild Kids



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 21, 2022

To: Chair Dela Cruz and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: SB2182 **Support**

Aloha,

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

In order to take the next step in advancing Hawai'i towards a more sustainable and equitable food system, we must invest in our keiki and the education they deserve. Studies show that Hawai'i ranks 29th for youth with higher rates of mental illness and lower rates of access to care (2020). Gardens in schools will be able to address these mental health issues with outdoor space that works towards strengthening social-emotional wellbeing. We would like to see all schools benefit from garden spaces, but not all schools either have the capacity or the knowledge to implement such an opportunity.

By establishing the School Garden Coordinator position, we will have a dedicated professional who is tasked with providing technical support and startup resources for schools interested in a school garden program. Through conversations with teachers who run the Hō'ola Academy at Kapolei High School (2021), it is clear they have been educating their students using 'āina-based education. Many children who have a hard time learning in the classroom, due to a number of reasons, tend to thrive in garden settings. This is where they get to show what they know, and interchangeably be the kumu. This positive setting uplifts their mental wellbeing, cultivates autonomy, provides empowerment and skill building through garden spaces (2019). However, not all schools benefit the way Kapolei does, and we hope to change that by **SUPPORTING SB2182**.

Mahalo,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

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

References

2020 Mental Health in America - Youth Data. Mental Health America. (2020). Retrieved February 3, 2022, from <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/2020/mental-health-america-youth-data>

Hō'ola Leadership Academy. Hō'ola Leadership Academy - Academies. (2021). Retrieved February 3, 2022, from https://www.kapoleihigh.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=346606&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=654990

Lam, V., Romses, K., & Renwick, K. (2019). Exploring the Relationship between School Gardens, Food Literacy and Mental Well-Being in Youths Using Photovoice. *Nutrients*, 11(6), 1354. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu11061354>

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.

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Date: February 22, 2022

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

Hearing: February 24, 2022 at 10:00am 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

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:19:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB2182
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 10:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

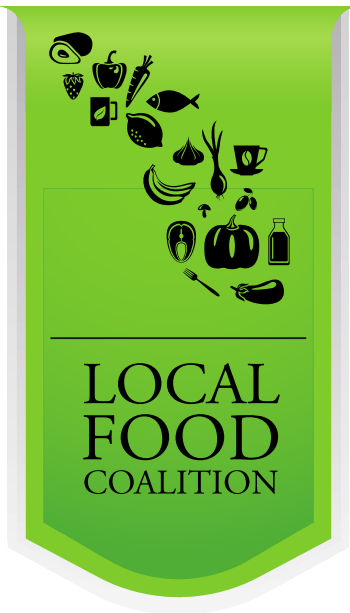
The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2182** to establish a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. This position is critical for the success of the Hawaii Farm to School program and will overall contribute to more engagement in agriculture from the school level. We support increasing the awareness and education of the production of local food, which will in turn help to build more interest and understanding of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. - Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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‘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

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



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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 Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 24, 2022
TIME: 10am
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.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:50:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

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'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.



Date: 2/22/22
To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council
Re: **SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1**
Hearing: 2/24/22, Wednesday, 10:00 am

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 Meadows Homeschool
Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 24, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2182, SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

Room 211 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.



A PROGRAM OF 'IOLANI SCHOOL AND UH CTAHR,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL HUI

Date: Feb. 23, 2022
To: WAM
From: Debbie Millikan, Coordinator, Oahu Farm to School Network
Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2182 SD1
Hearing: Feb. 24, 2022, 10am

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,

Deborah S. Millikan

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

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:37:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jesse Kealiinohomoku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I would like to share that i strongly support SB 2182 SD1. It is important that we start investing in the future leaders of our communities. A school program coordinator will advance both sustainable and equitable practices within education. Through this bill we are assuring that our keiki has good health, and the right education to accelerate the sector of agriculture.

Me ke aloha,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:38:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members of the Education and Ways and Means committees:

A few years ago I had the pleasure of teaching gardening to elementary school students at one of the DOE schools (through Aina in Schools program) I attended as a child. It was a thrilling full circle opportunity to be able to give back to that community. It also allowed me to witness first hand how vital such programs are.

It was shocking to see how some students had absolutely no idea of the connection between plants and food. Even common fruits were unknown. As part of the program we gave the children locally grown snacks. It was an chance to introduce something besides apples and carrots to them. Rambutan, longan, lychee, jabong, are some of the common backyard crops featured. It was also good for those children who did have local plant knowledge, to tell their stories and shine.

Please pass SB2182 SD1.

aloha,

Kauai

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:44:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzanne Fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this legislation to appropriate funding for a full-time permanent school garden coordinator in the DOE to provide support and assist with developing school garden programs.

If we are serious about creating an awareness of where our food comes from and a pipeline for future farmers, the school environment is where we need to plant the seeds - pun intended - via strong supported school garden programs.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:47:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT 2182 RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:56:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:51:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Coming from a family of public school educators and part-time farmers, I realize many of the benefits of children knowing where their food comes from and becoming part of that process. However, I just recently saw the data regarding the impact of gardening on student palates and nutritional eating habits. As a school counselor, I used to encourage students to eat their fruits and veggies while helping the cafeteria staff serve at middle schools...wrong.

I strongly support this bill now that I see a more logical, data-driven approach to addressing obesity and encouraging healthier lifestyles in children.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:28:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

A funded school garden position within the DOE is essential to better equipping & supporting school garden initiatives. Most teachers are not experts on agriculture, gardening, or soil science. Therefore, an actual DOE funded school garden position is a great way to ensure that school gardens are productive & actually enhance students' learning experience & connection to local food. I greatly appreciate that this bill has been introduced.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:15:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Crystal Germano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in strong support of SB2182. This bill is essential to food access, food sustainability, natural movement, and hands-on learning in schools. There is extensive amounts of research that shows that gardening is part of education and food security. Please consider creating this position as it is vital for teachers to incorporate gardening into curriculum and students to learn about gardening.

Mahalo,

Crystal

LATE

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:23:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a teacher and see the value in having gardens as part of a good curriculum. Having a coordinator will make it easier for schools to have and use gardens. Please support this bill.

SB-2182-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:07:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Delfin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's so important for schools to teach gardening, sustainability, and nutrition education for keiki to improve health outcomes for generations to come!