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DIRECTOR

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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 EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2182

**February 4, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 229 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS**

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

Senate Bill No. 2182 establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent position for a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education to provide technical support and startup resources for schools interested in starting a school garden program and appropriates \$200,000 in general funds for FY 23.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

**Date:** 02/04/2022

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2182 RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS.

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

**Department's Position:**

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

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2182.



Date: February 3, 2022

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for SB2182, Relating to School Gardens

Hearing: February 4, 2022 at 3:00pm Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB2182**, 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.<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 this support by passing SB2182.

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

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<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)



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FEBRUARY 4, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2182**  
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, and Members of the Committees:

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

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2182**, which establishes a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education.

HFB believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture. School garden programs achieve this by helping to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture through hands-on learning. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice.

By participating in school garden programs our children can gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture, adopt healthier eating habits, and develop stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Creating a School Garden Coordinator position is a good step that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed, farmers, consumers, and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



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TO: Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 4, 2022  
TIME: 3pm  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB2182 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.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
February 4, 2022 – 3:00 p.m. - Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports SB 2182, 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 is 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)

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



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 2, 2022

TO: Chair Kidani and Members of the Education Committee

RE: SB 2182 Relating to School Gardens

Support for a Hearing on February 4

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii supports this bill as it would establish a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. We support sustainability and healthy dietary education. Both of these goals will be served by this program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:52:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started strongly supports SB2182 to help #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. This is crucial for the state's sustainability.

School gardens and farms as place-based learning 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. Currently the work to build capacity is done mainly at the grassroot level through partnerships with non-profits such as ours.

Mahalo piha,

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:20:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Donna Therrien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please establish a school garden coordinator position within the Department of Education. Makes an appropriation to fund the position and related expenses. Very needed!

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:57:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 4, 2022 – 3:00 p.m. - Videoconference

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

**Aloha** Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

As the founder of the Maui Farm to School Network, member emeritis of the Hawaii Farm to School Hui, current Board Vice Chair of the Grow Some Good - Maui Farm to School Network, and 32 years as an educator for grades 6-12, I strongly support SB 2182 which calls for a School Garden Coordinator f/t position within the DOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID).

This position will expand the **integration of ag related learning** on our school campuses **holistically**, across the state, thus enhancing their abilities to learn. For example:

1. Science - nature, soils (aerobic and anarobic), astronomy, weather systems, archeology, geology, life cycles of humans, animals (land and aquatic) birds, insects, etc.
2. Mathematics - measurement, growth cycles,distance, directions, building and design, probability, etc.
3. Social studies - ‘Ike Hawaii, geography, culture, history
4. Fine and Performing Arts - acting out the life-cycles of insects, birds, and animals, singing songs related to plant and animal growth and behavior, etc.
5. Language - learning the terms for celebrating the diversity of our people, writing out research projects and methodologies, etc.
6. Health-our Hui integrated learning incorporates nutrition into every lesson and explains how it works. In addition our students become chefs in creating new ways of preparing their harvested foods.

By establishing the position of School Garden Coordinator within DOE-OCID, we collectivize our curricular ideas, abilities to reach out to more of our haumana, and enhance student learning by bringing them outside where they can enjoy the miracles of nature heuristically.

Mahalo Nui,

Marian Huff

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:17:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2182 because having a HIDOE School Garden Coordinator to support keiki education is essential to improving health outcomes in our state and ensuring the success of our future food systems.

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:04:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

During my involvement with the Hawaii Farm to School Hui, I have come to realize how important school gardens are in the development of all children. I previously saw it as a hands-on activity, especially appealing to certain populations. I have since learned the range of skills, concepts and benefits that children can acquire and add to their experience. From work ethic, resilience, repurposing, food safety best practices, science, geometry and conservation while also developing a nutritious palate as they eat the products of their labor and application. A School Garden Coordinator will be in a position to translate the goals, objectives and standards of the HODOE into concrete lessons and activities.

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:19:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Fiona Fong Weingartner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2182 to establish a public school garden coordinator. In the Hamakua moku, many school garden staff spend significant time and effort outside of their teaching and garden maintenance duties unofficially trying to coordinate for our regions. Also, while there exists a stable HI School Gardens Network nonprofit that provides some support, there is a limit to the advocacy and coordination they can implement in public schools, and often their reach is concentrated to Waimea and Honolulu. I am not sure what the reality is in other districts. My hope is that with a garden coordinator position, individual public school garden staff will be supported and freed up to implement more robust programming at their respective schools. Perhaps the coordinator would even get more schools on track for garden to cafeteria. On a more personal note: at my school, our keiki want to farm, they want more hours of hands on learning. I know many educators who are excited to bring school garden programming from a side resource class back up to the career training and life skills class it once was on this island. Aloha - Fiona at Honoka'a Elementary

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:40:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Brian "Ioane" Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my SUPPORT for SB2182, the establishment of a School Garden Coordinator within the DOE. I believe the creation of this position would benefit outdoor learning and aina-based education by providing a reliable point of contact for resources to help support such programs. Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony. Aloha aina!

Me ke aloha,

Ioane





# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

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

February 3, 2022

To: The Senate Committee on Education

Subject: SB2182, **Support**

Aloha,

We are writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu 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.

It is important to mention that in order to take the next step towards 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 Hawaii ranks 29th (1-13 lower prevalence to mental illness and higher rates of access to care for youth) 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 utilizing '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

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**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)

(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

## 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](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>

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**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.

February 2, 2022

TO: Senate Committee on EDU

RE: In support of [SB2182](#) Relating to School Gardens

I, Kerstyn Afuso, testify in support of [SB2182](#).

Aloha e Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Mercado Kim,

My name is Kerstyn Afuso and I have lived on O'ahu my whole life, going through the Hawai'i public school system until high school. I am writing in full support of **SB2182** because never in those 13 years of school did I have a single class relating to gardening, agriculture, or nutrition. Even as I went on to major in dietetics (nutrition) at UH Mānoa, which seems complementary to agriculture, I still was not exposed to agriculture. Growing up, I didn't know where a lot of our foods came from. I think it is an issue when our keiki don't know that a carrot grows in the ground or that green beans grow on small bushes. Today, as I go through the UH West O'ahu program in Sustainable Community Food Systems, I can understand the value that agriculture and our whole food system has to our lives. Not only is it essential to creating a system less dependent on the unpredictable and unsustainable food supply chain we rely on from the mainland, but it is also essential to creating a relationship between ourselves and our 'āina and for developing our future agricultural workforce.

I am in full support of SB2182 because of its ability to give keiki an opportunity to see how their food grows, learn about its role in our health, and to value locally grown foods. School gardens and its consistent reinforcement of the principles it supports are essential to getting our keiki here. I support SB2182 for the future of our own food security and our keiki!

Mahalo,

Kerstyn Afuso

February 3, 2022

To: The Senate Committee on Education

Subject: SB2182, **Support**

Aloha,

My name is Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku from Waianae, to express my 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.

It is important to mention that in order to take the next step towards 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 Hawaii ranks 29th with 57.9% who did not receive any mental health services (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 utilizing '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,

Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku

#### 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](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>

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:49:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cassandra Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim, and Committee on Education,

I am writing in strong support of SB2182 which will establish a school garden coordinator within the department of education's office. We must invest in individuals and programs that create opportunities for keiki to engage with the aina. This increases tactile learning opportunities and the overall health of students. Please pass this bill to malama our keiki and aina.

Mahalo nui,

Cassandra Chee

**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:45:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani,

Mahalo for your continued support of school gardens for Hawai'i that will bring schools to life and life to schools, through the establishment of school garden programs in every school in the State. School Gardens connect our keiki and youth with their environment, their food, their health, their community and culture, and the world of Nature where all science lives. Education for Sustainability also lives there through the interconnectedness of all life. Water, Energy, Food, Recycling, Economics all interconnect in a school garden and the students can use their creative observation, critical thinking, and experiential learning to help them understand the complex world around them and how to "affect" that world in positive ways. A School Learning Garden is an outdoor classroom that will help our students heal from the trauma of COVID. Having a DOE position is critical for Principals and Schools to know that DOE supports this kind of learning. Mahalo Nui!



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

**SB2182**  
RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS

Friday, February 4, 2022, 3:00 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, 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 strongly **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





**SB-2182**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:04:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Chair Kidani (EDU), Vice-Chair Mercado Kim (EDU), Chair Donovan Dela Cruz (WAM), Vice-Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran (WAM), and members of the EDU and WAM Committees,**

**My name is Tyler Levine, I am a member of the Hawaii Youth Food Council and I strongly support SB2182 to establish a school garden coordinator position within the HIDOE.**

As a student who has literally grown from the foundation of my school garden, like a seed sprouting from the soil, I understand the intrinsic importance of immersing students in such an environment.

All faculties of life and society connect through the common ground of growing food. Whether it be engineering, art, business, mathematics, history, science, linguistics, and more everything is connected through the foundational architecture of life.

Through caring for the school garden, students are not only learning about the environment and the natural cycles of the earth. They are becoming a part of these patterns and cycles. Students caring for the school garden become a key element to the health and functioning of the garden's ecosystem. This living laboratory is a place where students observe and listen to the natural world. As the natural world is no longer blocked or boarded off and the illusions of separation disappear. This right here is the key to unlocking humanity's future, and it all starts with a paradigm shift in our educational system.

While many HIDOE schools across the state have gardens/farms, equitable access to garden-based education for all HIDOE students has not yet been achieved. This position will grow capacity with HIDOE to ensure such equitable access.

I, Tyler Levine, respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that the HIDOE can establish a school garden coordinator position.

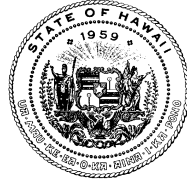
Sincerely,

Tyler Levine



**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2182**  
**RELATING TO SCHOOL GARDENS**

SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 4, 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 (S.B. 2182) and provides  
4 comments. S.B. 2182 establishes a school garden coordinator in the DOE to provide technical  
5 support and resources for schools interested in implementing a school garden program.

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

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2 **Offered Amendments:** None

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<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.