



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

Date: 02/09/2022

Time: 03:30 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2612 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai. Requires the Department of Education to report to the legislature on the feasibility of statewide implementation. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2612.

The Department will need to procure utensils for the time of the pilot project to support approximately 1,000 students enrolled in Department schools on Molokai to explore the use of reusable utensils in and by school cafeterias for student meals.

The Department has confirmed with the Department of Health (DOH) that multi-use (reusable) utensils may be used and that they must be treated as any other food contact surface which must be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to use. The Department has also confirmed with the DOH that the feasible cleaning methods include the cafeteria's current manual ware-washing method, which uses the three-compartment sink for proper washing, rinsing, and sanitizing by the School Food Services Branch cafeteria staff. Further, the Department will continue to explore the feasibility of statewide implementation of a reusable utensil program.

As the pilot project should not add additional responsibilities to students, the Department respectfully requests the bill be amended to remove the need for adoption of administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments supporting the intent of this measure.

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 EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2612

February 9, 2022
3:30 p.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

Senate Bill No. 2612: 1) establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education (DOE) schools on Moloka'i that shall start on August 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2023; 2) requires DOE to report to the Legislature on the feasibility of statewide implementation; and 3) appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 23 for the purposes of this measure.

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.

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:41:50 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lydia Trinidad, Principal	Testifying for Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani and Members of the Committee:

As Principal of Kualapuu Public Charter School on Molokai, we **support SB 2612** which establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai.

For over 20 years, Kualapu'u School has used plastic utensils and paper plates when serving breakfast, lunch, and snacks to its students. We estimate that we serve approximately 800 meals daily which dumps nearly 720,000 plastic utensils and paper plates into the Moloka'i landfill every year. This practice is unsustainable not only because of the unnecessary waste it contributes to an already overburdened landfill, but also due to the cost. Kualapu'u spends \$25,000.00 annually on plastic utensils, paper plates, napkins and other consumable supplies, which it is unable to maintain due to its limited resources as a charter school.

To address this problem, Kualapu'u has developed a plan to upgrade its school cafeteria to allow for the use of reusable and renewable utensils and supplies. The upgrade to our cafeteria is estimated at \$500,000. We have been using plastic utensils and paper plates for more than 20 years. That's a lot of material that went into our landfill. Over time, the cost of an upgrade will over the cost of single use supplies as well as save our environment and landfill.

The intent of SB 2612 aligns well with the critical need we see at the school to eliminate single use utensils and paper plates for our lunch and breakfast program. However, it is important that any funding support to Hawaii's Department of Education schools also include Hawai'i's charter schools.

We urge the Committee's support of SB 2612.



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

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

**Testimony In Support of SB 2612
Relating To Environmental Sustainability.
February 8, 2022**

Honorable Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Ho'okāko'o Corporation **supports SB 2612** which establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai.

Ho'okāko'o manages and governs charter schools in Hawai'i including Kualapu'u School, a Pre-K through sixth grade Hawaiian-focused charter school on the island of Moloka'i. Kualapu'u School is committed to providing its students with a Hawaiian culture-based education grounded in Hawaiian language and values.

For over 20 years, Kualapu'u School has used plastic utensils and paper plates when serving breakfast, lunch, and snacks to its students. We estimate that we serve approximately eight hundred meals daily which dumps nearly 720,000 plastic utensils and paper plates into the Moloka'i landfill every year. This practice is unsustainable not only because of the unnecessary waste it contributes to an already overburdened landfill, but also due to the cost. Kualapu'u spends \$25,000 annually on single-use plastic utensils and paper plates which are funds that could be put to better use in our classrooms.

Kualapu'u has developed a plan to upgrade its school cafeteria to replace aged, inefficient, and outdated equipment. Central to this upgrade is the inclusion of washing facilities that will allow for the use of reusable and renewable utensils and supplies for years to come. We are actively seeking funding support for this important project.

The intent of SB 2612 aligns well with the critical need we see at the school to eliminate single-use utensils. The bill also reflects the values we teach students to care for our 'aina and to be good stewards of our resources. However, it is important that any funding to Hawaii's Department of Education schools also include support for Hawai'i's charter schools.

We urge the Committee's support of SB 2612.

Thank you,

David Y. Gibson, Executive Director
Ho'okāko'o Corporation

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:48:44 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lacey Phifer	Testifying for Kilohana Elementary School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Lacey Phifer (pre-K teacher) and in my class students ages 4-5 years old has learned the importance of using re-used utensiles and to malama our aina. we believe starting at a young age, like in pre-k,will develope long lasting habits. these are some of the reasons I support this bill

Aloha Committee,

My name is Cynthia Luafalemana and I am in support of this bill SB2612 -" Establish a reusable utensil pilot project in the Department of Education schools on Molokai"; because of the extensive data and process that our students at Kilohana Elementary School have collected and maintained over the past year. In fact, it was my 3rd graders who came up with the idea "One Fork @ a Time". This was a PBL - Project Based Learning idea in which the students wanted to make an impact in their community and school. It started with just one fork with one class with the intention that the entire school would get on board. By the end of May 2021 and with the support from Administration and the cafeteria support, our school was able to purchase utensils for each student with a sole purpose of not having plastic utensils being thrown into our landfills.

My students did a data and survey, which we collected as proven documentation that all students were thrilled to continue with this project.

One fork @ a time has been supported with the help of "donorschoose" and other Molokai Community members who donated a dishwasher and utensils. Although the pandemic may have put a halt on school activities, this project continues to evolve making it the number one priority in our school. Each student is responsible for bringing their own utensils to school. If students forget to bring their own utensils, then problem-solving comes to mind on the how and what to do? Problem solve would be - eat with my fingers, ask to borrow one from the teacher, or ask the cafeteria room monitor. With this bill, the students don't need to worry about not having an utensil anymore. With this bill, plastic waste won't fill our landfills; with this bill our student's project has made a great impact for the future of Hawaii and Molokai.

If you need more information, please contact our "One fork @ a time" student committee. Mahalo Nui, Mrs. Cynthia Luafalemana Kilohana 3rd grade teacher and Molokai Community member.

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 7:16:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2612, relating to the enviornmental sustainability.

Mahalo rd

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:32:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2612, relating to environmental sustainability.

Mahalo

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:53:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith Mikami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am submitting written testimony to support a reusable utensil pilot project in the (5) Department of Education schools on Molokai that will require the Department of Education to report to the legislature on the feasibility of statewide implementation after the pilot project is completed. I support the appropriation of funds to establish this pilot project in the Molokai public schools and the subsequent report and potential statewide implementation should this be successful. Thank you for the opportunity. Judith Mikami, Molokai resident

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:28:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Sasada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I believe that the environment, especially on our island is very important. So, if we can try different ways to help preserve our land, then we should try. I hope that you take this bill into consideration!

Mahalo!

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 7:57:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2612.

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:51:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I am in strong support of this pilot project which would establish the use of re-usable utensles on the island of Molokai. Everyday we throw over 180,000 plastic forks into our landfill that were just used for 5 minutes but will be in the landfill for several hundred years. What are we teaching our keiki when we make them pollute our landfills just to eat a decent breakfast and lunch. I wish this were also being implemented at my school, Maui Waena Intermediate. At my school there are over 1100 students and all these forks end up in the landfill. Please pass this bill because it should be feasable to go "old school" and get dish washers to wash our forks. I look forward to seeing the feasibility study of the report.

Mahalo,
Fitz

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:04:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanie Tanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am the 4th grade teacher at Kilohana Elementary School on Molokai. During SY 2020-2021, our 3rd grade class started a PBL project, titled "One Fork @ a Time." Students made a virtual presentation to my class, promoting their project and asking my 4th graders to join them in bringing their own reusable utensils and NOT taking any plastic utensils for breakfast and lunch meals at school. The 3rd graders wanted to save money for our school, by not having the cafeteria buy plastic utensils, and wanted to reduce the amount of waste being thrown into our landfills and getting into our oceans and onto our land, saving animals that inhabit our environment. We joined them and supported them as this project spread to our entire school. This year, as 4th graders, these students are now in my class, and we have continued their project because they feel it is important to be mindful of our environment. During the current school year 2021-2022, our school is still plastic utensil free! We have saved thousands of plastic utensils from being thrown into the garbage and undoubtedly saved hundreds of dollars that can be better spent, hopefully on education.

As teachers, we educate our students on the importance of taking care of our islands; being responsible stewards and contributors to our place, so that it may flourish and thrive for generations. What better way to "walk the talk" than to pass an initiative that encourages responsibility and strengthening our sense of HA?

I encourage you to think about the impact this will have on the molding and teaching of our keiki. It is not and will not be easy, but things that are important often come with persistence and hard work, and the will and commitment of leaders to make a difference. Mahalo for taking the time to consider this bill and for allowing me to share my thoughts.

Aloha.

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:57:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Naeole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bil

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:32:16 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimberly Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am in favor of **SB 2612** which establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai.

I am a retired Kualapu'u School teacher and have taught for 23 years on Molokai. In all that time, Kualapu'u School has used plastic utensils and paper plates when serving breakfast, lunch, and snacks to its students. I can't even imagine how much unnecessary trash has been dumped into the Moloka'i landfill over those years. This practice is unsustainable not only because of the unnecessary waste it contributes to an already overburdened landfill, but also due to the cost.

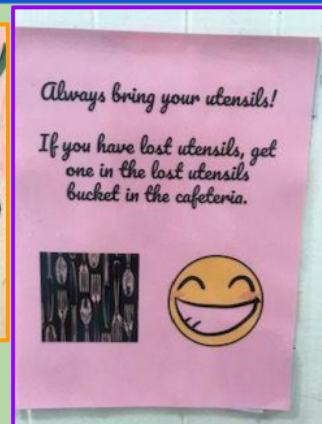
Please help save our island and our schools by funding this bill that eliminates single use utensils and paper plates for our lunch and breakfast program. Additionally, please include our Hawaii DOE public charter school, Kualapu'u School, in this effort to mālama 'āina and promote sustainability.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Puanani Johnston

Retired Kualapu'u School teacher

NO Plastics Malama ka honua a me ke kai



***Mahalo
Nui***

'Aina Aloha

My name is Shona Pineda and I am a member of the Kilohana School 'Ohana. I support SB2612 Relating to Environmental Sustainability. Here at Kilohana students and staff use reusable utensils everyday for school meals. Students created and have posted reminders on campus to "please use reusable utensils." During our daily morning announcements everyone is reminded to use their reusable utensils. Our 4th Grader's goal is to try to get all Hawaii DOE schools to use reusable utensils. We have succeeded for almost a whole school year here at Kilohana. Please support our 4th Grader Project Based Learning "ONE FORK @ A TIME". Imua Kilohana Rams!

Shona Pineda, Principal
Kilohana Elementary School

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:53:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorna Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support this bill

LATE

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 6:30:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenette Foster	Testifying for kualapuu school	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, please help our school eliminate single use plastic! It's horrible we have a little cup with plastic for three grapes plus a lid for 350 kids. As the art teacher I try to collect as many of these pieces of plastic as possible and reuse them for paint containers. But seriously it's ridiculous we live on the island and we have so much plastic going into the landfill . Kualapu'u spends \$25,000.00 annually on plastic utensils, paper plates, napkins and other consumable supplies, which it is unable to maintain due to its limited resources as a charter school.

We have a plan and we are trying to fix this We want to upgrade the cafeteria to allow for the use of reusable and renewable utensils and supplies. The upgrade to our cafeteria is estimated at \$500,000. We have been using plastic utensils and paper plates for more than 20 years. That's a lot of material that went into our landfill. Over time, the cost of an upgrade will over the cost of single use supplies as well as save our environment and landfill.

The intent of SB 2612 aligns well with the critical need we see at the school to eliminate single use utensils and paper plates for our lunch and breakfast program. However, it is important that any funding support to Hawaii's Department of Education schools also include Hawai'i's charter schools.

We urge the Committee's support of SB 2612.

LATE

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:17:13 AM
Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Courtney-Paige DiMaggio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I supports SB 2612 which establishes a reusable utensil pilot project in Department of Education schools on Molokai.

For over 20 years, Kualapu'u School has used plastic utensils and paper plates when serving breakfast, lunch, and snacks to its students. We estimate that we serve approximately 800 meals daily which dumps nearly 720,000 plastic utensils and paper plates into the Moloka'i landfill every year. This practice is unsustainable not only because of the unnecessary waste it contributes to an already overburdened landfill, but also due to the cost. Kualapu'u spends \$25,000.00 annually on plastic utensils, paper plates, napkins and other consumable supplies, which it is unable to maintain due to its limited resources as a charter school.

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The intent of SB 2612 aligns well with the critical need we see at the school to

LATE

SB-2612

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:17:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Allen Diorec	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2612.