



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/03/2023

Time: 01:01 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Agriculture and
Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 0186 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO EXPAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA AND 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT PATHWAYS TO AGRICULTURE CAREERS IN HAWAII.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SCR 0186.

The Department supports initiatives to expand and revitalize FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America). FFA is a Career and Technical Student Organization with 25 chapters from various high schools across the state. 222 members and advisors are expected to attend the FFA State Convention that will be held on March 30-31, 2023.

However, to support the expansion of FFA and 4-H programs within our schools, the Department would require additional support and resources that would enable us to work with all high schools offering Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Pathways, as well as middle schools, to facilitate the onboarding and growth of new FFA chapters and 4-H youth programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 0186.



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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 0186.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**APRIL 3, 2023
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 186 / SENATE RESOLUTION 170

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAII' I ASSOCIATION OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO EXPAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE FUTURE
FARMERS OF AMERICA AND 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT PATHWAYS
TO AGRICULTURE CAREERS IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR186 and SR170, The resolutions urge the Department of Education (DOE) and the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) to expand and revitalize the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H programs to support the pathways to agriculture careers in Hawaii. The Department is in strong support of this resolution.

The Department looks forward to collaborating with the DOE and HAIS and will provide resources, including presentations from subject matter experts to add an empirical knowledge perspective to the programs developed to further inspire the students that are interested in an agriculture career.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.





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April 3, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SCR 186/SR 170

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO EXPAND THE REVITALIZATION OF THE FUTURE
FARMERS OF AMERICA AND 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT PATHWAYS
TO AGRICULTURE CAREERS IN HAWAII

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:01 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Richards, 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 SCR 92/SR 85, which urges the Department of Education and the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, in consultation with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Cooperative Extension, to expand the revitalization of the Future Farmers of America and 4-H youth programs and reestablish and strengthen pathways for youth to find careers in agriculture.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age exceeds 60 years old and if they were in other professions would be retired. Yet many of these farmers are those that provide to supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, and farmers' markets and truly make a difference in reducing imports. Unfortunately for many, succession plans do not exist and as they retire, the lands go out of agricultural production. To maintain and expand production levels, it's clear that we need a new generation of farmers and ranchers equipped to assume the task of growing crops and livestock. There is an urgent need for interns or apprentices that are willing to not only work on these farms but take over their operations.

Hawai'i's 4-H and FFA programs are vitally important to the future of agriculture in Hawai'i. We can no longer rely upon our public education system for the education and training of the next generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers. FFA and 4-H have

a long history of fulfilling this goal. The passion and direct interaction of volunteer farmers and ranchers with young people will help grow and perpetuate the ranks of the next generation of farmers and ranchers. These programs address sustainability on social, economic, and environmental levels. The FFA and 4-H programs have a proven track record of not only exposing and educating young people to positive, hands-on experience in agricultural production but also a program that instills leadership and life skills in a wide variety of projects.

We must strongly support agricultural education for our young people if we are to increase Hawai'i's long-term resilience and sustainability.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



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Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 3, 2023
TIME: 1:01pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SCR186 / SR170 Urging the Department of Education and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to Expand the Revitalization of the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Youth Programs to Support Pathways to Agriculture Careers in Hawaii.

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.

Growing our local agricultural sector is a goal we all share. HFIA is in support of this resolution to expand these programs to support our future agricultural leaders in Hawaii. We urge you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-186

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 4:41:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/3/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR186 as I was a former FFA and 4H member and I am still in the ag industry. We need more young people in our industry and schools can help educate them.