

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 04/13/2023
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Education

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 186.

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.

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 on-boarding and growth of new FFA chapters and 4-H youth programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 186.



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Executive Officers

Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
John Schilf, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 13, 2023
TIME: 2
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.



TO: The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Philip Bossert, Executive Director
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

RE: **SCR 186 - 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 – IN SUPPORT**

DATE: Thursday, April 13, 2023
2:00 p.m.; Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) supports SCR 186 and the initiative to revitalize the 4-H and FFA programs as a pathway to agricultural careers in Hawaii.

HAIS encourages all of Hawaii's 115 private schools to include school gardens in their regular curriculum and has worked with the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture and the Ulu Pono Foundation in the past to expand interest in project-based learning courses that focus on sustainable agriculture. If provided with appropriate information and materials about the 4-H and Future Farmers of America, as well as perhaps instructional webinars about careers in agriculture, HAIS would be happy to share these resources with its member institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.



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April 13, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SCR 186

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 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten, 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 186, 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.

SCR-186

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 3:51:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/13/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finally some body has a Good Idea!!!