



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

LATE

Date: 03/15/2019

Time: 02:25 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Agriculture
House Lower & Higher Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0303 RELATING TO GARDENS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 303. The Department respectfully requests greater clarity in what may be required in administrative coordination with the Hawaii Community Development Authority, funding, and its impact on current staffing as all of these elements pose a considerable impact on our schools.

According to the 2018 Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), 86.5% of schools responding reported they had gardens. The Department continues to promote engaging and integrated learning across the educational disciplines such as math, science, social studies and English, in its efforts to expand creative and innovative opportunities. Within these garden-based projects, opportunities that fully engage the range of learners are relevant, authentic and meaningful.

The Department's school design strategy prioritizes a flexible and adaptive approach, empowering each school to make decisions about specific contexts and partnerships for developing high quality and relevant learning experiences based on the needs of their students' and the local community.

As gardens are created on their campuses, every school in the Department can access an array of supports and networks within the tri-level system and through excellent stakeholder partnerships such as the Farm To School Hui. Currently, this partnership has extended to curate garden-based learning resources that will be embedded and made available on the Department's internal website. A convening is being organized to connect Hui members with complex area and school staff interested in expanding and promoting an array of garden-based experiences that advances their school's design.

As this process is well-established and growing across Hawaii, the Department suggests that legislation is not needed at this time.

Should this bill move forward , the Department respectfully offers the following amendment to page 2, lines 13-15:

“...law to the contrary, the department may develop programs ~~that provide incentives for the development of gardens~~ on school property;”

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 303.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
and
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Friday, March 15, 2019 at 2:25 p.m.
By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 303 – RELATING TO GARDENS

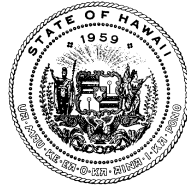
Chairs Creagan and Woodson, Vice Chairs DeCoite, Hashem, and Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 303 relating to gardens in schools and communities. The bill requires that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHM/CTAHR) should be consulted regarding best practices in gardening, including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community gardening.

UHM/CTAHR is the home of the Cooperative Extension Service. As part of that program, it runs a statewide Master Gardener Program, has edible crop and ornamental extension agents in each county and is the home of the Pearl City Urban Garden Center, which has extensive plantings and offers extension courses that are directly related to this bill. Unless suggested faculty number cuts currently being considered in this year's legislature reduce UHM/CTAHR's personnel, our Cooperative Extension Service can provide the consultation required by the bill. UHM/CTAHR, in collaboration with UHM/SOEST, is in the process of hiring an extension specialist in aquaculture; and the position should be filled by the time this bill goes into effect.

In summary, CTAHR is capable and ready to collaborate with the specifics of this bill should it be passed into law and should faculty numbers not be reduced.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 303.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 303
RELATING TO GARDENS**

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 15, 2019

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully defers to the Departments
2 of Education (DOE), Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and the
3 University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH
4 CTAHR) regarding implementation of the measure and to the priorities set forth in the Executive
5 Biennium Budget Request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of Senate Bill 303 (S.B. 303) is to authorize the DOE,
7 DBEDT, and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to develop programs that
8 provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within communities. UH
9 CTAHR is designated to provide consultation on best practices for these gardens.

10 The Department supports the intent of this bill and its potential positive health impacts.
11 School and community gardens provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, and
12 communities. Garden programs have the potential to strengthen partnerships between state
13 agencies, improve access to healthy food options, and increase consumption of fruits and

1 vegetables. Garden programs align with the Department's prevention strategies to develop
2 healthy food systems and reinforce positive nutrition behaviors that will reduce the risk for
3 chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and some cancers.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None.



HAWAI'I FARM TO SCHOOL HUI

LEARNING GARDENS AND SCHOOL FOOD SYSTEMS



HUI MEMBER CORE ORGANIZATIONS:

Grow Some Good/Maui School Garden Network

'Iolani School/O'ahu Farm to School Network

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Mala'ai: Culinary Gardens of Waimea Middle School/Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

Mālama Kaua'i/Kaua'i School Garden Network

Sustainable Molokai/Molokai School Garden Network

The Bennett Foundation

The Kohala Center

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui is a statewide network whose mission is to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement by supporting our island networks in the areas of capacity building, resource development and sharing, professional development, and policy development and advocacy. Farm to school programs include school gardens, education, and school food

improvements through local procurement. The Hui is comprised of five island-level networks, community organizations and schools, and representatives from the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and the University of Hawai'i. The Hui formed in 2010 and became a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) in 2017.

Date: March 15, 2019

To: Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Re: Comments on SB303, Relating to Gardens

Hearing: March 15, 2019 at 2:25pm in Conference Room 309

LATE

Thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on SB303** which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) and Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

The purpose, intention, and impacts of the bill as currently written are unclear. The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates and thanks the legislature for supporting school gardens. We respectfully request that the legislature consider providing **dedicated funding for professional development and support staff at the state, community, and school levels within HIDOE to help coordinate and support high-quality garden-based learning programs in Hawaii's public schools.**

Eighty five percent of K-12 public non-charter schools in Hawai'i have active school gardens, according to the most recent data (SY1718) from the Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), which is administered annually by HIDOE and the Hawai'i Department of Health. Extensive support for these programs (through professional development, resource development and sharing, capacity building, etc.) has been provided over the past decade by the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and its members, including farm to school and school garden networks on each island. Approximately eighty percent (or \$5.6 million) of \$7 million invested in the development of these programs and of the statewide movement from 2007-2017 has come from private funding sources. **The need for increased State support is clear.**

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui encourages the legislature to also consider the recommendations of **DC149: the Final Report on a Coordinated Framework of Support for Preschool Through Post-Secondary (P-20) Agriculture Education in Hawai'i** pursuant to S.R. No. 80 (2015), and to support **SB762 SD1** in order to **increase the capacity of the University of Hawai'i (UH) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to support agriculture education in Hawaii's schools.** The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has developed a number of resources to support best practices for school gardens, including safe growing and food handling. Materials are available at www.farmentoschoolhui.org.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide comments on SB303.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal

Coordinator, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)

hiphi.org • 850 Richards Street, Suite 201 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 6:39:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 2:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	No

Comments:

Development of School Gardens in the Hawai'i Public Schools, has been financed (over 7 million dollars) through private Hawai'i Family Foundations for the past decade. According to the latest HDOH SAWS (Safety and Wellness Survey) 195 out of 255 schools in Hawai'i have some kind of School Garden used for instructional purposes on a daily basis. Professional Development Programs such as The Kohala Center's Ku 'Aina Pa Program that uses the Hawai'i School Garden Curriculum Map, or Kokua Hawai'i Foundations 'Aina Is Program have already been created to assist Teachers in integrating core classroom curriculum with School Gardens. School Gardens are an Instructional Strategy for delivering hands-on education in the areas of Health/Environment/Climate Change/Food/Culture. What is NOT happening yet, is any kind of State Government Real Investment to insure that these programs will continue to be implemented, grow and flourish. School Garden Programs K-12 need State Investment in order to exist...as we can no longer count on private funding for these public programs, necessary for our youth to be able to think about, and create real life solutions to the real problems before us, problems in the areas outlined in the Governor's Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative, Food, Water, Energy, Waste, etc. Mahalo for your consideration of this request. Mahalo for all you do.

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 3:47:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 2:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 10:31:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 2:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haley Hildebrand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a DOE employee, former garden educator, and current Behavioral Health Specialist, I strongly support this bill. We need more gardens in our schools and communities. With more gardens, creates the need for fully-funded full-time garden educator positions. I use our school garden with my students every single day and witness first hand the positive social emotional benefits from working with nature. Gardens not only provide fresh, local food for our students, but a safe and peaceful place for reflection and learning. Please, help move this bill forward for our next generation of leaders.

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:07:13 PM
Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 2:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-303

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 8:58:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/15/2019 2:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Perry	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Respectfully request adding funding for professional development and staffing within HODOE to support school level garden-based learning programs in Hawaii's public schools.