



March 21, 2021

To: Chair Woodson
Vice Chair Kapela
House Committee on Education

RE: **SUPPORT for HCR68/HR56**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of HCR68/HR56**. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we seek opportunities to lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

A robust tree canopy can greatly contribute to the public health of our communities. In both rural and urban communities, tree canopy provides protection from rain, sun, and heat and reduces the harms from tailpipe emissions. With more trees, our neighborhoods become more livable by promoting the use of active transportation, such as walking and biking, allowing for regular physical activity. Trees can also support psychological well-being by increasing vigor and reducing anxiety, depression, and anger.¹

Planting more trees also has significant economic impacts; with a planting cost of \$250-\$600 (including first three years of maintenance), a single street tree returns over \$90,000 of direct benefits in the lifetime of the tree, not including aesthetic, social, and natural benefits.²

Given the importance of creating healthier school environments for our keiki, we urge you to support this resolution. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of HCR68/HR56**.

Sincerely,

Colby Takeda, MPH, MBA
Senior Manager

¹ Li, Q. (2010). Effect of forest bathing trips on human immune function. *Environmental Health and Preventative Medicine*, 15(1).

² Burden, D. (2016). 22 reasons trees in cities keep us healthy and save us money. *Blue Zones*.

HCR-68

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:29:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
heidi kreul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill increasing tree planting on Hawaii school campuses. It's important to create cool outdoor spaces where students can go out and study. mahalo for allowing me to testify.

heidi

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Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:06:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

What a wonderful idea! Great opportunities to teach AND teach respect for the 'aina.

I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of this measure with many benefits. I urge every committee member to support this common sense resolution.

Mahalo for accepting my written testimony.

HCR-68

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 1:43:20 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm all for more shade on playgrounds because of the scary amounts of deadly skin cancer when children are burned by the sun at early ages, but also trees provide cool shade and are GREAT for the planet.