DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

> Date: 02/25/2022 Time: 11:00 AM Location: 308 Via Videoconference Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill:HB 1994, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF<br/>EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the shade trees and native plants program in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools. Appropriates funds for the program and to establish an arborist position. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

#### **Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1994, HD1.

The Department recognizes the importance of increasing tree canopies on public school grounds. The additional full-time arborist will provide much-needed support to manage the existing tree responsibilities as well as the proposed new trees. The Department also recognizes the educational and cultural importance of the propagation of native or fruit trees and the contribution this will have on climate change mitigation. The Department acknowledges that school agriculture programs will benefit from the intentions of this bill.

Finally, the Department appreciates the operational flexibility the HD1 provides regarding program implementation. Since schools determine program focus areas based on student and community interest, input from the school administration at each respective school will be necessary to meet this outcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the intent of HB 1994, HD1.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



CRAIG K. HIRAI DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1994, H.D. 1

## February 25, 2022 11:00 a.m. Room 308 and Videoconference

## RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 1994, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the shade trees and native plants

program in the Department of Education to support educational activities and encourage

propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools;

2) appropriates \$350,000 in general funds for FY 23 for the administration of the shade

trees and native plants program; and 3) establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent permanent

Arborist position and appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 23 for the position.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations 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.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





SUZANNE D. CASE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> ROBERT K. MASUDA FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT EXCINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC RESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

#### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

Before the House Committee on FINANCE

Friday, February 25, 2022 11:00 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

### In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1994, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

House Bill 1994, House Draft 1 proposes to establish the shade tree and native plants program in the Department of Education (DOE) to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in school properties, and appropriates funds to support the program, including an arborist position. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

In addition to a full-time arborist to increase the capacity of the DOE to manage the existing and new trees, the Department suggests funds also be secured to support their maintenance. Trees are infrastructure, and like all infrastructure, require maintenance to survive, thrive, and provide maximum benefits over a long time period. However, unlike some types of infrastructure, trees provide a 3:1 return on investment through the services they provide such as cooling buildings, absorbing storm water, filtering air and water, and providing a pleasant environment condusive to learning.

Since the 1990s, the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program has supported DOE schools with grants to green their campuses. A recent review of DOE grant recipients revealed that the strong efforts by individual principals, teachers, and students to plant and grow shade and fruit trees needs institutionalized support in order to be sustainable. Trees require long term care to yield all their potential benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1994-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:45:04 AM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Heather McMillen | DLNR         | Support            | Yes                           |

Comments:

I am available for questions for DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:37:52 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Robert K. Masuda | DLNR         | Support                   | Yes                           |

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



| Date:    | February 24, 2022  |
|----------|--|
| То:      | Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair<br>Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair<br>Members of the House Committee on Finance |
| From:    | Lydi Bernal, Hawaiʻi Farm to School Hui Coordinator  |
| Re:      | SUPPORT for HB1994 HD1, Relating to the Department of Education  |
| Hearing: | February 25, 2022 at 11:00am Via Videoconference   |

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1994 HD1**, which establishes the shade trees and native plants program in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools, and appropriates funds for the program and to establish an arborist position.

Trees of all kinds (fruit trees, native trees, etc.) are an integral part of farm to school programming in that they can provide food for school meals, snacks, and tastings, as well as valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and preschool through post-secondary (P-20) agriculture education programs.

This bill directs involvement of agriculture and natural resource programs in schools, which are part of the P-20 continuum of agriculture education that the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and partners are working to build.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates this Committee's strong support of farm to school and agriculture education, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue its support by passing this bill.

Me Ke Aloha, Lydi Bernal Hawaiʻi Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:24:06 AM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization                          | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh | Mamaki Ola Farm and<br>Education, LLC | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

Māmaki Ola Farm and Education, LLC supports HB1994 HD1. In partnership with several businesses, including Shaka Tea LLC and native plant nurseries, and funded by several Hawaii Community Foundation grants, Māmaki Ola LLC has been co-developing curriculum to plant native trees such as māmaki on school campuses that have the optimal climate for such trees. Native and endemic trees are a very important source of cultural knowledge. Futhermore, trees of all kinds are an integral part of farm to school programming in that they can provide food for school meals and tastings, #fixourfoodsystem, sequester carbon, as well as provide valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and P-20 agriculture education programs.

Mahalo nui loa,

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Māmaki Farmer and Māmaki Ola Farm and Education, LLC, co-owner

kohmingwei@gmail.com



Testimony before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Friday, February 25, 2022 (11:00 a.m.)

RE: HB1994 HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, Members of the Committee on Finance:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a nonprofit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

TFHF strongly support the above-referenced Bill, which will establish an initiative, with funds and staffing, to promote the planting of shade trees and native plants program within the department of education.

We hear at lot about the need to take action on climate change and build resilience. Trees aren't the only solution, but they are one of many steps we can take today to positive impact today. Trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. Following are just a few:

- Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature.
- Trees recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs.
- Trees trap pollutants and store CO2.
- Trees help students learn better.
- Trees make human, and animals, happier and healthier.

Sadly though, Honolulu has been losing urban tree canopy over the past years. Schools are a particularly good place for more trees.

We urge this Committee to pass this Bill and send it on to the full House to pass Third Reading and transmittal to the Senate.

Thank you.

Daniel Dinell, President Trees for Honolulu's Future

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353 P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 3:50:01 AM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| : | Submitted By | Organization              | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Ted Bohlen   | Climate Protectors Hawaii | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

**Climate Protectors Hawai'i strongly supports** this measure, which will help with climate mitigation by providing for shade trees and native plants at schools that sequester atmospheric carbon greenhouse gas, while providing valuable education to students about the value of trees.

Climate Protectors Hawaii (By Ted Bohlen)

# <u>HB-1994-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:05:18 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| _ | Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Michael Press | Individual   | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo!

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:53:25 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization      | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Ka Ohana O Na Pua | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

The Department of Education has done a few studies over the past years on why trees should be planted on DOE campuses and one of the findings was that tree cover around buildings lessens interior heat in our subtropical environment. The cost difference between cooling classrooms with electricity or with open windows and more shade is stark. Tree assets on a school campus include a healthier shade for students, cooler buildings and grounds, cleaner water entering ground water as tree roots filter water, and increased oxygen.

Planting trees at schools helps beautify the community. They not only enrich the students and residents' lives, they enrich the earth that they now inhabit.

#### HB-1994-HD-1 Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:06:31 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Zoe          | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

#### Comments:

We must plant more trees! Not only is it better for our environment, and creates beauty on campuses (a place where our keiki spend a majority of their time), but they also provide opportunities for engaging, placed based learning opportunities. Fruit trees, native trees, and trees of all kinds are an integral part of farm to school programming in that they can provide food for school meals and tastings, as well as valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and P-20 agriculture education programs.

This is a win-win decision. Plant more trees AND create more sustainable jobs for our current young people and next generation - many of which are interested in food, agriculture, conservation and natural resource management but have limited opportunities here on the islands. As someone who has worked with Hawai'i youth for over 10 years I have seen the change in attitude and see the need for more opportunities like this.

Mahalo for your consideration!

## <u>HB-1994-HD-1</u>

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:45:00 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| <br>Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack   | Individual   | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

I fully support HB1994 HD1 that establishes the shade trees and native plants program in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools. Please PASS this very worthwhile and important measure.

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 3:30:37 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| _ | Submitted By | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Wai Lee      | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

HB 1994 is a good bill. But I did not see how the Farm to Table(FTT) coordinator gets to the program money to do the work.

I recommend the appropriation is allocated as a mini-grant program managed by the DOE arborist or his/her designate. The school admin. and the FTT coordinator can apply for the funding. The funding access process is documented. So the DOE arborist is involved from the beginning until the trees are hand-over for long-term maintenance.

All the shade or fruit tree planting projects are tracked and maintained, and the appropriation is accountable every year.

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 4:01:01 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| John M. Knox | Individual   | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members --

I am John Knox, a Waimanalo resident and (though I write as an individual) a member of the Board of Directors for the nonprofit group Trees for Honolulu's Future.

This is all about increasing shade on school grounds and around playing fields for our kids and grandkids as the temperature climbs due to climate change. It is a common-sense measure.

I support and urge your passage of HB1994 HD1. Mahalo.

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 7:12:55 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lourdes millan | Individual   | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

I support this bill we need more trees

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:39:00 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kimeona Kane | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in strong support of this bill. This is a great opportunity for our schools, keiki, communities to learn from and develop appreciation of. As we know in Hawai'i, our forests are threatened by so many invasize and introduced species, so helping to bring more light to that, should be our path. More shade trees are needed, and hopefully they can be native ones as well. Mahalo for considering this bill and please support it forward.

Me ka ha'aha'a, Kimeona Kane

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 8:55:04 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| heidi kreul  | Individual   | Support            | No                            |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. I believe it important to plant shade trees, fruit trees and native plants on school campuses.

mahalo nui loa,

Heidi kreul

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 9:52:06 PM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By      | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| stephanie frazier | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

I support this measure

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 7:51:20 AM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Nandoskar | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

Strongly support!

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 7:57:28 AM Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | <b>Testifier Position</b> | Remote Testimony<br>Requested |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shari Grounds | Individual   | Support                   | No                            |

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1994! Mahalo!