



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

**Date:** 02/10/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1994 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF 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.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 1994.

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 notes that the measure is requiring the use of existing agriculture and natural resource programs and the establishment of agriculture or natural resources programs at other schools. 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 on HB 1994.



**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:22:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Comments

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 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 EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1994

**February 10, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 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: 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.

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:33:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	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.



Date: February 9, 2022  
To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education  
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator  
Re: SUPPORT for HB1994, Relating to the Department of Education  
Hearing: February 10, 2022 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1994**, 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 fruits for tasting and school meals (via the Hawai'i Garden to Cafeteria Program), as well as valuable educational opportunities for students when integrated with curriculum and K-12 agriculture education programs.

This bill directs involvement of agriculture and natural resource programs in schools, which are part of the preschool through post-secondary (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 this support by passing HB1994.

Me Ke Aloha,  
Lydi Bernal  
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:10:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

Food trees can be a very effective method of cooling our hot classrooms and increasing on-campus food production. Food trees can be low maintenance and high yield, making them a worthwhile investment with longevity and a high likelihood of success. A professional arborist would ensure that the right trees were chosen for the right spot and given the right maintenance.



**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:16:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Debbie Millikan	Oahu Farm to School Network	Support	No

Comments:

Oahu Farm to School Network supports the establishment of a shade, native and fruit tree planting program in DOE public schools. Trees provide many benefits to school campuses including the production of food, providing shade for outdoor classroom activities, and offering opportunities for student engagement in the care and nurturing of plants. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:36:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill strongly as it emphasizes the need to invest into our food sovereignty, skills and competencies surrounding green jobs, and creates a living classroom that can span generations of learners within and beyond the school, community and district. We know that our schools are challenged with trees, and we know that there are some risks in having trees, but what we cannot make excuses for is not allowing our keiki an opportunity to expand their learning. A program like this could lead to the jet stream needed to staff our agriculture industry with eager people who have been raised in loving the ‘āina.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:09:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I support HB1994- Providing shade trees, Native plants and fruit trees propagation program on DOE school campuses... As well as money for an Arborist Position for DOE.

Mahalo,

Makanoe Hufana

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:05:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB1994. As a past volunteer with Kokua Hawaii Foundation Aina in Schools program, I really saw the benefit of connecting children with growing their own food. If we can enhance that education with an even greater connection to more permanent native and fruit trees that would have lasting impacts on generations of children. It would also contribute an important source of food for snacks, tastings, and meals, and provide rich educational opportunities to engage students in experiential learning about agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Thank you,

Drew Wilkinson

**HB-1994**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:25:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jody M Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill because I have worked in playgrounds throughout the Windward side as a Teacher, a Skills Trainer, an Autism Consultant, and as a Substitute Teacher. Young children often need breaks from the classroom, and children with Autism need access throughout the school day. I have been supervising students or one-on-one with clients in playgrounds that were so hot the equipment was unavailable for children's use. Trees provide shade for all keiki and are necessary for a healthy environment. This is a great opportunity to better our schools naturally.

Mahalo,

Jody Green

Waimanalo