



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 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 2250, HD1 RELATING TO GARDENS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the department of education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property. Broadens the authority of the Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives for the development of urban gardening programs. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 2250, HD1.

The Department has existing programs and initiatives which address these concerns. Subject matter standards include related concepts in content areas such as Health, Science, and Social Studies. Several existing Board of Education policies outline the role of schools in making curricular and instructional decisions to provide a quality standards-based academic program that aligns with the needs of school communities: 105-1: Academic Program, 105-2: Responsibility for Curriculum Development and Implementation, and 105-3: Curriculum. According to the 2019-2020 Safety and Wellness Survey (SAWS), 91% of schools that responded reported they had culturally relevant activities that are 'aina-based and hands-on, such as food preparation, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens. Given the programmatic efforts currently underway, the Department believes this bill is not necessary at this time.

The Department is also concerned with soil contamination around school campuses. School gardens must follow the Department of Health guidance outlined by the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office to avoid known soil contamination

around school campuses. It is recommended that school gardens be located away from building perimeters and drip lines; further, clean soil should be used for the gardens. If soil contamination is an issue, using a raised bed with underlying fiber cloth and filled with clean soil is a viable option. For larger sites, mitigation of rain runoff and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System compliance may be an issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2250, HD1.



Date: February 24, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Re: SUPPORT for HB2250 HD1, Relating to Gardens

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 HB2250 HD1**, which authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property, and authorizes the Hawai'i Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

School gardens contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A'ō (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.¹

Most Hawai'i public schools have active garden programs², and many resources exist to support their development and use of best practices, such as the [Hawai'i Farm to School Toolkit](#) and [Resource Hub](#). We respectfully ask the Committee to please also consider dedicating funding toward permanent support staff positions, such as a School Garden Coordinator within the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID), as provided for by [HB2013](#) and [SB2182](#).

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 school and community gardens, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue its support by passing this bill.

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

¹ National Farm to School Network. The Benefits of Farm to School. May 2020.
https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf

² Safety and Wellness Survey, administered annually by the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health.



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February 24, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2250, HD1
RELATING TO THE GARDENS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 HB 2250, HD1, which authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property and broadens the authority of the Hawai'i community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives for the development of urban gardening programs.

HFB believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture. School garden programs achieve this by helping to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture through hands-on learning. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice.

By participating in school and urban garden programs our children and residents can gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture, adopt healthier eating habits, and develop stronger support for Hawai'i's agriculture industry. We still have a long way to go to educate our children and residents about agriculture. School and Urban gardens are tools that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed, farmers, consumers, and supporters of Hawai'i's agricultural industry in the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



**HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SUSAN TODANI
CHAIRPERSON

DEEPAK NEUPANE, P.E., AIA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
DEEPAK NEUPANE
Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 25, 2022
11:00 a.m.

VIA Videoconference, State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of

HB 2250, HD1
RELATING TO GARDENS.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports HB 2250, HD1**. The measure authorizes the HCDA to develop programs that provide incentives to establish urban gardens.

In line with this measure, HCDA is currently considering incentives that encourage urban gardens, as HCDA is working with the community in Kakaako on making amendments to update the district's rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:55:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports HB2250 HD1. Our organization has helped hundreds of schools and communities in the Pacific Region to co-create gardens and food forests as a way to #fixourfoodsystem, sequester carbon, and play a part in food security. There are so many reasons to support this bill including:

- School and community gardens contribute to better health for people of all ages.
- School gardens also contribute to increased student engagement in learning, academic achievement, health and safety (including COVID prevention in outdoor settings), social emotional well-being, strengthening Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.

There is a wonderful model in Portland, OR, where there are community gardens located on school property and in connection to the school learning garden, ensuring that there is always someone helping to tend the gardens, especially during school breaks and long weekends. This is a wise use of precious space in urban settings.

We support!

Mahalo nui loa,

Koh Ming Wei, PhD.

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org.

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:05:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony 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!

HB-2250-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:00:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

I don't think it should be the responsibility of the Department of Education to create garden programs in schools, that should be done at the school level. What the Department can do is to clearly support any principal who chooses to develop a garden program on their campus, a program that fits their school vision and plan. This is not a one size fits all. Principals know what would be best for their students and community. DOE can also support professional development for the teachers who have garden programs in their school, so that they can better connect standards and core curriculum with learning in the outdoor classroom. Sustainability Education is extremely important for Hawaii's students today as the future will require critical and creative thinking in many systems including food, water, energy, recycling, economics, etc. The garden is the perfect infrastructure for experiential learning, that would be an optimum learning choice for Hawaii's keiki and youth.