



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

Date: 02/15/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education
House Housing

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2250 RELATING TO GARDENS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property. Authorizes the Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 2250.

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.

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:50:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Comments



**HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

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 EDUCATION
and the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.

VIA Videoconference, State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 2250
RELATING TO GARDENS.

Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and members of the Committees.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports HB 2250 with amendments.** The measure authorizes the HCDA to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

Currently, as HCDA works with the community in both Kakaako and Kalaeloa on making amendments to update each district's rules we are considering incentives that encourage urban gardens.

Community input taught us that urban gardens need not be limited to schools and housing projects, and as the State's redevelopment agency we currently have the flexibility to create incentives for urban gardens in commercial projects, as well as public facilities.

We suggest that rather than revise Section 206E-4.5, the committee consider not making any changes to Section 206E-4.5 because the existing language "urban gardening programs" allow for flexibility in incentivizing urban gardens in school, housing, commercial, and other projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We will be glad to answer any questions.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 15, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON HB 2250
RELATING TO THE GARDENS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice-Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2250, which authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property and authorizes the Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

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

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Date: February 14, 2022

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

Representative Nadine Nakamura, Chair
Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Housing

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

Re: SUPPORT for HB2250, Relating to Gardens

Hearing: February 15, 2022 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2250**, 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 and community gardens contribute to **better health for people of all ages**. A national study of nearly 20,000 participants revealed that spending two or more hours per week in nature – either all at once or cumulatively – is definitively linked with better health and well-being.¹ This association was found to be true regardless of people's occupations, ethnic groups, chronic illnesses and disabilities, and whether from rich or poor areas.

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'ō (HĀ), and increased student preference for locally grown and raised foods.²

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 the Committees' strong support of school and community gardens, and respectfully requests that the Committees continue this support by passing HB2250.

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

¹ White, M.P., Alcock, I., Grellier, J. *et al.* Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing. *Sci Rep* 9, 7730 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-44097-3>

² National Farm to School Network. The Benefits of Farm to School. May 2020. https://assets.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611027419232d281ad2f51ff_BenefitsFactSheet.pdf

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:21:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have personally visited all the community gardens in Honolulu, I think there were 10, and was so impressed at the level of community involvement and care I saw there. There are many people who don't have access to backyards for growing, and home grown food has always been part of Hawaii's food system. Home grown food adds another layer to our future food community food system needs. This office needs a staff position to oversee the program. A program for each island. Mahalo.

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:58:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Levine	Hawaii Youth Food Council	Support	Yes

Comments:





Date: 2/14/2022

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Education (EDN)

Representative Nadine Nakamura, Chair

Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Housing (HSG)

From: Hawai'i Youth Food Council

Re: SUPPORT for HB2250, Relating to Gardens

Hearing: 2/15/2022 at 2pm

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2250, 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.

As Hawai'i students, we believe that gardens have the potential to enrich school curriculum and can provide a medium for students to learn critical lessons and develop collaborative skills beyond the classroom. Gardens can allow teachers to introduce lessons about nutrition, food production, and traditional Hawaiian food systems, enabling Hawai'i students to possess a greater awareness about healthy lifestyles and Hawaiian culture. Furthermore, we believe gardens can also improve student mental health by providing an opportunity to spend time outdoors in a relaxing and minimum stress environment.

We believe school gardens are crucial to cultivating interest in food production among Hawaii's students. Hawai'i Youth Food Councilmember and current Punahou School senior Bao Nguyen had the opportunity to tend a school garden in middle school, which led him to develop a greater sense of responsibility over the production of his food. As members of the Hawai'i Youth Food Council, we believe that inspiring such a curiosity in food production in Hawaii's students is critical to engaging youth in food systems change and improving the sustainability of Hawaii's food systems.

(Continued on next page)

The Hawai'i Youth Food Council is a program of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui and Hawai'i Public Health Institute, and includes students from public, charter, and independent high schools across Hawai'i. The council was established in 2020 to engage and empower youth in the process of rewriting the present narrative of Hawaii's food system. Members identify and address systemic issues that exist throughout various

dimensions of the food chain to promote community participation in the formation of resilient, equitable local food economies.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen, Punahou School

BJ Miranda, West Hawai'i Explorations Academy

Chay Cunningham, Maryknoll High School

Gigi Kiyabu, Mid Pacific Institute

Grace Monaco, 'Iolani School

Hannah Apostol, Waipahu High School

Jaden Joy Rosabia, Kealakehe High School

Marianel Carmen, Maui High School

Mia Torres, James Campbell High School

Rona Lei Duldulao, McKinley High School

Tyler Levine, Oak Meadows Homeschool

Yewon Julie Jeong, Hanalani Schools

Committees on Education and Housing
The Hawaii State House of Representatives
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 2013 & HB2250 Testimony

February 11, 2022

Dear Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and esteemed members of the House Committees on Education and Housing,

I SUPPORT WITH BILL [HB2013](#) and [HB2250](#), which seek to develop a gardening program and appoint a gardening program coordinator for Department of Education (DOE) schools.

My name is Erika Molyneux, and I am a resident of Kaneohe and a mother of an elementary student at Kapunahala Elementary School. As someone interested in my own children's health and education as well as the state's fiscal responsibility in stewarding taxpayer money, I see only benefits in investing in our local agriculture education, and teaching our children to help create their own food security and thus move our island toward self-sustainability. Additionally, gardening is linked to improved emotional and mental health and is an important component of Hawaiian culture. Furthermore, I am impressed that these bills are likely to contribute to neighborhood beautification, lowered health costs, better nutrition, and added recreation and life skills for our keiki.

For all these reasons, I strongly support PASSING BILLS [HB2013](#) and [HB2250](#). Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Molyneux', written in a cursive style.

Erika Molyneux

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 9:02:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support Bill 2250. Yes, teach kids to grow healthy food and learn about native plants, sustainability, and recycling and composting. Hands-on learning is the most impactful teaching method and it is also the most exciting and enjoyable way to learn for kids. It would be good to extend this concept to learning about and participating in kalo farming and fishpond food production in areas where this is available to kids. Also, organic gardens, growing native plants and fruit trees, etc. contribute to mitigating carbon in the atmosphere and are good for the planet. More community gardens would contribute to a healthy lifestyle, sustainable living in our islands, and free to minimal cost food produce for participants..

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 2:46:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

I am in full support of this bill and hope that all schools have the blessing of participating in gardening on school property. This is an integral part of early education that can lead to a lifetime of very important agricultural work for our state. Having worked with various schools in rural communities to establish and maintain gardens, I believe wholeheartedly that this can benefit the keiki, school and community. Please support this effort.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 11:26:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cara Oba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes to finding more ways to increase access to fresh foods and education/awareness of local food systems. I support this bill!

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:38:12 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill!

Marian Huff

HB-2250

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:38:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports this Bill. Mahalo nui!