



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture
February 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Testimony

HB 1434 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Tsuji and Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The purpose of HB 1434 is to direct the University of Hawaii, CTAHR, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), to study the feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in Hawai'i's public schools and to submit a report to the 2010 Legislature.

We note that the Department of Education (DOE), whose school lunch program, procurement practices and educational curriculum may be impacted by participation in a statewide farm to school program, is not named as a party to the study. It is important that the DOE is a part of the study since it is clear that whatever is conceived must meet the federal lunch program criteria.

UHM and CTAHR support the intent of this bill, as it will promote local agriculture, the farming community, and the use of safe, fresh, high-quality, locally-grown produce. The bill is also in keeping with the State's initiative to increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency from the current reality of importing 85% of all food we consume, and relates to CTAHR's vision to actively help Hawai'i diversify its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and strengthen its communities.

However, this support is expressed on the condition that it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i.

We appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

February 6, 2009

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AGR Committee

Submitted to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>

RE: Support for HB1434, Friday, 2/6/09, 9 a.m., Conference Room 229

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering this important measure.

Farm to school programs can have many interrelated positive impacts: keeping dollars and jobs in Hawai'i; providing fresh, nutritious produce to students; instilling healthy eating habits in Hawai'i's keiki; supporting Hawai'i's farmers; keeping agricultural lands intact; and reducing our dependence on imported food.

Still, there are many data gaps that must be filled in order for Hawai'i schools to make significant, large-scale progress in this arena. The feasibility study that HB1434 provides would provide much of the information that individual schools, the statewide educational system, farmers, and distributors need in order to determine how to best work toward increasing the amount of fresh, locally grown produce provided in school lunches.

I humbly ask you to support House Bill 1434 and farm to school in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Kaliko Amona
Hale'iwa, HI

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1434 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

LATE
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Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1434

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Perry
Organization: Individual
Address: Waialua, HI
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/6/2009

Comments:

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:16 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1434 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: testimony-farm to schools.doc

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Testimony

Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1434

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Feinga
Organization: Individual
Address: HI
Phone: 808
E-mail: f
Submitted on: 2/6/2009

Comments:

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:26 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1434 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: FTS_Support.doc

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Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1434

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joahna Rocchio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808-
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/6/2009

Comments:

wooley1-Christopher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 9:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB1434 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1434

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wendy Lagareta
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/6/2009

Comments:

Farm to school programs on the mainland have been very successful. Hawaii could benefit from a partnership between local farmers and schools.

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