

Date: 02/02/2009

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0992 RELATING TO NUTRITION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a farm-to-work nutrition program in the public schools.

Department's Position: While the Department of Education supports establishing a farm-to-work nutrition program, we have concerns relating to this bill. Federal requirements, State procurement solicitation rules, and food cost criteria obligates the department to purchase "best buy" on all food items related to the National School Lunch Program. HIDOE School Food Service Managers do order locally grown produce if it meets the pricing criteria, is listed as an approved cycle-menu meal component, and purchased through an approved vendor. Approved vendors hold the liability of inspecting and grading produce sold to HIDOE cafeterias.

Nutrition and Wellness education are already provided to cafeteria personnel through a Department of Health grant and Kapiolani Community College partnership.

The Department of Education does not have the resources or funding to support a farm-to-school coordinator. We would encourage partnerships and distribution opportunities between farmers, produce suppliers, and vendors, but we do not have the resources to facilitate this collaboration.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 992
RELATING TO NUTRITION**

Chairperson Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 992. The purpose of this bill is to establish a farm-to-school nutrition program that will connect schools with local farmers with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local farmers. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) offers comments.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognizes the importance of a farm-to-school nutrition program as a means to increase the purchase of local farm products and to promote the health and nutrition benefits of buying fresh, local produce. HDOA appreciates the increased sales for our agricultural producers that this bill will generate. We would also like to note that HB1011 and SB829, bills introduced by the Administration, are supportive of purchase of local agricultural products by Hawaii state departments.

We defer to the Department of Education as to whether they have adequate staff and resources to carry out the requirements of HB992.

berg1-Liz

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:07 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB992 on 2/2/2009 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 2/2/2009 2:00:00 PM HB992

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Harris, M.D.
Organization: Individual
Address: 1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1880 Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 941-8151
E-mail: HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

HB 992 represents an opportunity to benefit both Hawaii students and Hawaii farmers.

I strongly support this bill