

LATE

February 6, 2009

HRE, WTL Committees

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

RE: Support for SB1179, Friday, 2/6/09, 4 p.m., Conference Room 229

Aloha Chairs Tokuda and Hee 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 SB1179 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 Senate Bill 1179 and farm to school in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

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Hale'iwa, HI

SB 1179 – Email Testimony

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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 by preventing development; and reducing our dependence on imported food thereby moving Hawai'i towards sustainability and food security.

SB 1179 is an excellent opportunity to advance the farm to school process in Hawai'i. The feasibility study could provide much of the information and links to resources that individual school staff, the statewide educational system, farmers, vendors, and distributors need in order to determine how to best work toward increasing the amount of fresh, locally grown produce provided in school lunches for Hawai'i's children.

Please support this bill and farm to school in Hawai'i.