

**SB 1179**

March 2, 2009

WAM Committee

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

RE: Strong Support for SB 1179, SD1 (Conference Room 211, 3/3/2009, 9:30 a.m.)

Aloha Committee on Ways & Means Members,

Please support SB1179.

As you know, 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, many of whom are at risk for overweight, obesity, and diabetes; supporting Hawai'i's farmers; keeping agricultural lands intact; and reducing our dependence on imported food. Investing in farm to school programs thus helps our economy, health, environment, and overall sustainability.

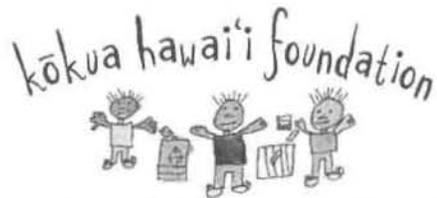
I am submitting testimony as an individual, but work for the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization supporting environmental education in Hawai'i's schools and communities. In 2006, we launched 'AINA In Schools, a farm to school program aimed at connecting children to the food, land, and water that sustains them. Much of our work has focused on providing nutrition lessons and school garden lessons to school children. Some of the schools we've worked with have started trying to purchase more locally grown food to serve in their cafeterias. Many more are interested, but need information on how to go about starting a program, what it would cost, and how to go about procuring locally grown produce.

There is huge potential for farm to school in Hawai'i. I'm very excited about the feasibility study that SB1179 proposes, because it can help us map out how to best achieve that potential. I am confident that the study can identify several potential sources of support for the program as well. Because there are so many benefits from farm to school, there are many different sectors that may be able to provide volunteer services, in-kind donations, information, and financial support to the program.

Please support SB1179 and farm to school in our state.

Mahalo nui,

Kaliko Amona  
Hale'iwa, HI



P.O. Box 866 Honolulu, HI 96712 (808) 638-5145 [kokuahawaiifoundation.org](http://kokuahawaiifoundation.org)

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RE: Strong Support for SB 1179, SD1 (Conference Room 211, 3/3/2009, 9:30 a.m.)

Aloha Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui, and Committee on Ways & Means Members,

I'm writing to express my and Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation's strong support for SB1179. Thank you for considering this important measure.

As you know, farm to school programs can have many interrelated positive impacts: keeping dollars and jobs in Hawaii'i; providing fresh, nutritious produce to students; instilling healthy eating habits in Hawaii'i's keiki, many of whom are at risk for overweight, obesity, and diabetes; supporting Hawaii'i's farmers; keeping agricultural lands intact; and reducing our dependence on imported food. Investing in farm to school programs thus helps our economy, health, environment, and overall sustainability.

The Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation is a non-profit organization supporting environmental education in Hawaii's schools and communities. In 2006, we launched 'AINA In Schools, a farm to school program aimed at connecting children to the food, land, and water that sustains them. While much of our work has focused on nutrition lessons and school gardens, some of the schools we work with have made headway in occasionally featuring locally grown food on their menus. There is very high interest among parents, teachers, and administrators in starting farm to school programs.

There are many data gaps that must be filled in order for Hawaii'i schools to make significant, large-scale progress in this arena. The feasibility study that SB1179 provides is an excellent opportunity to glean 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.

Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation is active in the local and national farm to school movement and commits to supporting the study through information sharing and consultation with SB1179's proposed working group. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need any further information or assistance from us.

Again, thank you for your time. We humbly ask you to support Senate Bill 1179 and farm to school in Hawaii'i.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kim Johnson  
Executive Director  
Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation

Comments to the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
for Decision Making  
on  
March 3, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.  
by  
Andrew G. Hashimoto

SB 1179, SD 1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). My comments are personal and do not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

The purpose of SB 1179 SD1 is to establish a farm to school policy in Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to direct the University of Hawaii (UH), CTAHR, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the Department of Education (DOE), and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBB), to convene a working group of stakeholders to consider the feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in Hawaii's public schools, appropriates funds for the feasibility study, and requires CTAHR to submit its findings and recommendations to the 2010 Legislature.

I fully support the intent of this bill, as it promotes locally grown food in schools and supports the local agricultural industry. The bill is also in keeping with the State's initiative to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency from the current reality of importing to Hawaii upwards of 85% of all food we consume, and relates to CTAHR's vision to actively help Hawaii diversify its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and strengthen its communities. I am willing to help facilitate this process should the measure be passed, and to work with the DOE on issues that may impact the department's school lunch program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Dear Senators:

Thank you for giving the public the opportunity to comment on SB 1179. With these comments, I would like to reiterate my support for SB 1179 SD1 upon its second reading.

Since the last reading of the bill and my earlier comments, parent volunteers at Sunset Beach Elementary school have helped to start a kids' farmers' market every other Friday after school. This time frame is in direct competition with Ice Cream Friday, a PTCA fundraiser. We solicit produce donations from people in the community and have the kids sell them to their classmates, parents, teachers, staff, the public, with adult supervision, of course. The response has been overwhelming. Our first market day resulted in EVERYTHING being sold. There were children standing in line to buy one starfruit, or a few tangerines instead of buying ice cream across the way. Parents also stood in a long line to buy produce for their families. This overwhelmingly positive response from the children, the school and the community shows that children will choose to eat healthy if they are presented with the opportunity to do so.

The Sunset Beach farmers' market club has decided that with the proceeds of the farmers' market, we would like to offer a healthy snack at recess for the children to continue to reinforce healthy eating. We are currently in the process of figuring out the volunteer logistics for this particular outcome of the market. We hope to have local farmers provide the fruits and vegetables. In a state like Hawai'i, with abundant sunshine, and a year round growing season, there is no reason why we should not be helping farmers sell their products to local schools, and why our children's health should not be benefiting from the proximity of farms throughout much of the state. This would alleviate the absurdity of shipping food products such long distances, contributing to higher costs, higher fuel consumption, and lower quality food because of the distances it has to travel.

As I stated in my previous testimony, 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. However, we should not stop at a feasibility study. I respectfully urge you to amend the bill to implement policies to aid in the procurement process for the DOE to be able to source produce more easily directly from Hawai'i farmers and to make sure that the 5 week school lunch calendar can be amended to include healthier alternatives within the federal guidelines.

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

SB 1179 – Email Testimony

Monique Mironesco, Ph.D.

University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu

Assistant Professor, Political Science

(more importantly) Parent and SCC member

Sunset Beach Elementary School

February 6, 2009

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 11:51 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** hunakai5@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1179 on 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1179

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
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E-mail: [hunakai5@aol.com](mailto:hunakai5@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/2/2009

**Comments:**

Please support this feasibility study for farm to school programs in Hawaii. This is such an important first step in getting fresh, locally grown food into the cafeterias of our schools, and supporting local farmers.

## Testimony for SB1179

Kevin Chung

Delegate of Secondary Student Council 2008-2009

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Hello, my name is Kevin Yongki Chung. On behalf of the Secondary Student Council of Hawaii, I give full support of SB1179. A farm to school program has numerous benefits for Hawaii's economy, environment, farmers, and keiki. In various states across the nation, this program has successfully stimulated local economic activity, raised revenues for farmers, and helped students and faculty in schools to make healthier decisions in the cafeteria. Additionally, since the farming industry is strengthened by this program, Hawaii would be less dependent on imported food and have a smaller carbon footprint. Because of the myriad of potential benefits that can be gained from the program, Hawaii must assess how and under what conditions this program can be implemented. SB1179 calls for a feasibility study to be done on the farm to school program, examining what unique obstacles must be overcome before schools start serving fresh, local food. If Hawaii hopes to someday implement, cost-efficiently, a program that has the potential to boost the local economy, preserve the environment, and increase student health, this feasibility test is absolutely necessary. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB1179.