STAND. COM. REP. NO. **140**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 10, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 1434

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 1434 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to support Hawaii's agricultural industry and educate students on nutrition and the value of buying and eating local food by directing the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-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 Hawaii's public schools.

A concerned individual supported this bill. The University of Hawaii, UH-CTAHR, and HFBF supported the intent of this measure. DOA submitted comments.

Your Committee notes that this bill complements several other measures relating to food safety, food security, and local agriculture that are also being considered during this legislative session. In the face of increasing concerns and public awareness on the issue of how best to support local agriculture and encourage food self-sufficiency, this bill represents another step towards meeting these challenges. The development of a statewide farm-to-school program will also align our state with the goals and objectives of the National Farm to School program.
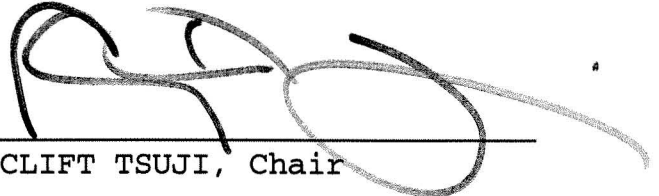
HB1434 HSCR AGR HMS 2009-1874

However, your Committee recognizes several concerns that were raised during the public hearing for this measure. Concerns were raised by DOA and UH-CTAHR regarding the availability of funding for the feasibility study, given the current fiscal challenges facing the state. In addition, the inclusion of the Department of Education (DOE) should be considered, as the DOE's school lunch program, procurement practices, and educational curriculum may be impacted by a Hawaii farm-to-school program. Finally, HFBF submitted testimony indicating that some farm-to-school initiatives have already been implemented by local organizations on a smaller scale, and recommended that the Legislature, in lieu of a feasibility study, establish a statewide policy statement supporting a Hawaii farm-to-school program. Your Committee supports future legislative efforts to address these concerns.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1434 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committees on Education and Higher Education.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture,

CLIFT TSUJI, Chair

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fifth Legislature

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 1434	AGR, EDN/HED, FIN	Feb. 6, 2009

❏ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: ☑ Pass, unamended (as is)   ❏ Pass, with amendments (HD)   ❏ Hold
     ❏ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TSUJI, Clift (C)	✓			
2. WOOLEY, Jessica (VC)	✓			
3. BERG, Lyla B.				✓
4. CHOY, Isaac W.	✓			
5. EVANS, Cindy	✓			
6. MANAHAN, Joey	✓			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
8. TAKAI, K. Mark				
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	✓			
10. WAKAI, Glenn				✓
11. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	8	0	0	2

The recommendation is: ☑ Adopted   ❏ Not Adopted

If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
                               committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____

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