

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1475
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1475, Relating to Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill to designate October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii.

The purpose of this bill is to raise the awareness of the "Farm to School" program which educates school children on agriculture and health issues and simultaneously supporting farmers in Hawaii. The Department is a strong advocate of agricultural sustainability and the Department of Health an equally strong advocate for the healthy Hawaii Initiative and Aina Is (Actively Integrating Nutrition and Agriculture in Schools) programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

hashem1 - Angleica

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 7:46 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dstrand@pineapplemaui.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1475 on 2/9/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/9/2011 10:00:00 AM HB1475

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Darren Strand
Organization: MCFB
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dstrand@pineapplemaui.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

MCFB supports this measure. We have seen increased ag awareness of students and parents with our Ag in the Classroom program. This will bring greater awareness of agriculture during the month.



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB 1475 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations across the State **strongly supports HB1475**, seeking to designate October as Farm to School Month in Hawaii.

Learning where food comes from is an important part of education. As people move away from the land, a disconnect occurs. One of our volunteers encountered an interesting answer when asking 2nd graders if they knew what a weed was. Many hands went up and their answer was "marijuana". It wasn't a joke. They really believed that marijuana was the only definition of weed. We have a long ways to go to educate our youth. This is an investment to having well informed consumers in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.



25 Malunui Ave., Suite 102., PMB 282 • Kailua, HI 96734 • Phone/Fax: (808) 262-0682 E-mail: htf@lava.net

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

HB 1475

RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

Committee chair and members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization, supports HB 1475 that designates October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

As awareness of the benefits of eating healthy food increases so does the need for education about where food comes from. Thus the emergence of the Farm to School program whose objective is to provide healthy meals at school while making students aware of the important role of Hawaii's farmers and the food they produce.

Naming October of each year *Farm to School Month* will bring awareness to the many programs aimed at educating Hawaii's keiki about the important connection between locally grown food and nutrition.

Hawaii's Thousand Friends urges the committee to pass this very good pro-active no cost bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HB1475, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

WRITTEN ONLY

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health

February 9, 2011; 10:00 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Bill 1475 is to designate October as "Farm to
4 School" month in Hawaii. Farm to school programs typically provide education and promote awareness
5 around nutrition and agriculture. These programs may include all or of some of the following
6 components: school gardens, hands-on cooking demonstrations, farm visits, and integration of locally
7 grown foods in to school snacks, celebrations or meals.

8 The evaluation of farm to school projects has demonstrated improvements in students'
9 knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to the consumption of fruits and vegetables (Morris, et al.
10 2002; McAleese, et al. 2007). Data from the 2009 Hawaii High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey
11 indicate that only 8.9% of students consumed fruit two or more times per day and vegetables three or
12 more times per day.

13 The goal of the Department of Health, Healthy Hawaii Initiative is to increase years of healthy
14 life for all and reduce the existing health disparities in Hawaii through increasing physical activity and

1 healthy eating behaviors and reducing the use of tobacco. Schools provide a unique venue to develop
2 and reinforce healthy behaviors with the majority of Hawaii's children.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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