

**SB 1451**  
**EDT/AGL**

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1451  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Fukunaga and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 1451. The purpose of this bill is to designate October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

Schools are the designated educational entities whereby society preserves, prepares, and perpetuates itself beyond survival and subsistence. Hawaii's farms and ranches play a vital role in the sustainability of our food supply and security. Yet, many school children do not understand where their food comes from.

By designating October as "Farm to School Month," this effort would help to educate school children, not only on where their food comes from but on other positive attributes, such as nutrition, health and sustainability of the local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Date:** 02/25/2011

**Committee:** Senate Agriculture  
Senate Economic Development and  
Technology

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1451 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH.

**Purpose of Bill:** Designates October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education wholeheartedly endorses and supports the designation of October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SB1451, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

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

February 25, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

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

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of Senate Bill 1451 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 17.2% of students consumed five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

12 The goal of the Department of Health (DOH), Healthy Hawaii Initiative (HHI) is to increase  
13 years of healthy life for all and reduce the existing health disparities in Hawaii through increasing  
14 physical activity and healthy eating behaviors and reducing the use of tobacco. Schools provide a

1 unique venue to develop and reinforce healthy behaviors with the majority of Hawaii's children. The  
2 DOH HHI is actively engaged in partnership with the Department of Education and other organizations  
3 on farm to school projects and nutrition education.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

5



Friday, February 25, 2011  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY  
AND AGRICULTURE

RE: SB 1451 - Relating to Farm to School Month

Dear Chairs Fukunaga and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Wakai and Kahele, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS supports Senate Bill 1451** and finds that the aspirations expressed in this measure are aligned with the goals of our own new farm-to-school initiative, GROW HAWAII.

GROW HAWAII is a member of the Hawaii School Garden Hui that is dedicated to addressing educational needs in agricultural sustainability by supporting existing school gardens, implementing new school gardens and integrating locally grown and made foods into cafeterias, snack programs, and after school programs with community involvement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

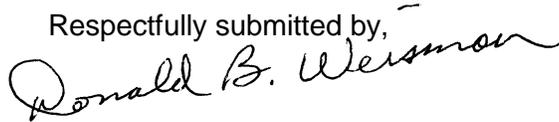
**Testimony Supporting the Intent of SB 1451,  
“Relating To Farm To School Month”**

The American Heart Association supports the intent of SB 1451, “Relating To Farm To School Month.”

The United States is addressing an obesity epidemic of historical proportion. More than 72 million adults have become obese, greater than 20% above ideal weight, and another one third are overweight; with the concomitant rise in medically costly weight-related complications. Unfortunately, these numbers are spreading to our nation’s children where 32 percent are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and 11 percent are extremely obese. The American Heart Association supports a multi-pronged approach to address the nation’s obesity epidemic which includes creating policies that improve access and affordability of healthy foods to all people.

While the Centers for Disease Control has not yet established “best practices” to address the obesity issue, it is monitoring and assessing community efforts throughout the country. The AHA has also supported the intent of HB 1380, HD2 which would establish a Farm-To-School program under the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and would collect data that would help to add to the development of “best practices” to address obesity issues and provide feedback to legislators as to whether their investment of taxpayer funds are having the intended results. Designation of October as “Farm-To-School Month” would help to further promote that effort, as well as promote the consumption of fresh produce as one means of combating the state’s obesity issues.

Respectfully submitted by,



Don Weisman  
Hawaii Advocacy Director

**Serving Hawaii since 1948**

For information on the AHA educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) e-mail us at [hawaii@heart.org](mailto:hawaii@heart.org)

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***“Building healthier lives,  
free of cardiovascular  
diseases and stroke.”***

## Jody Nakanelua

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:27 AM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Cc:** nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1451 on 2/25/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/AGL 2/25/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1451

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nancy Redfeather  
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Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

## Jody Nakanelua

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:17 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Cc:** jacque.leinau@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1451 on 2/25/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/AGL 2/25/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1451

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
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Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments: