

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY, 31, 2013
Room 312
9:00 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 478
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 478, which proposes to allow all schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in their school meals programs which shall be inspected and certified as safe by the department of agriculture. The department offers comments.

The federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was created to help the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) address the key elements of food safety. On January 16, 2013, FDA published proposed the first two of five regulations to implement FSMA. At the state level, it appears that the Department of Health will hold the main responsibility of implementation. The Department would recommend a closer inspection of the upcoming FSMA rules and how those rules may determine the appropriate roles for the various state entities. One such vehicle for this conversation could be through the good agricultural practices task force that is being created by legislation that is currently moving through the legislature.



The Department of Education School Food Services Branch is responsible for the quality, quantity, price-appropriateness, and safety of the food provided to Hawaii public schools. Therefore, we would also defer to the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch for comment.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/13/2013

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0478,HD1(hscr125) RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture. Allows nonprofit organizations to establish and administer fresh food distribution services. Effective July 1, 2013.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports school garden programs and curriculum related activities; but does not support amended new section in H.D. 1, as written.

Policies and procedures must be defined before commingling school garden produce with inventory procured to meet the federal meal pattern and food safety guidelines. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification, traceability and liability lines must be established in case of food borne illnesses.

Processing raw, harvested produce will require addition cafeteria staff training, especially for high risk, commodity specific produce such as sprouts, melons, tomatoes, and leafy greens. Funding for additional labor hours associated with processing produce will be required. Currently, fifty-five percent of the full cost of a school lunch is labor.

The federal nutrition program requires equity in terms of availability and equal access of foods served to students participating in federal nutrition programs. DOE school gardens do not provide sufficient harvested quantities to meet meal participation needs.

Administration of a fresh food distribution service to a DOE school should also prescribe to the same standards of food safety, liability, equity, with established policies and procedures.



HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER TESTIMONY

Presented by Jim Shon, Director
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center
February 13, 2013

COMMITTEE: House Education
DATE: February 13, 2013
TIME: 2 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: HB 478, HD1
POSITION: HEPC SUPPORTS THIS BILL

HEPC supports this bill for several reasons:

1. It is clearly one of the fastest growing “hands-on” school-based S.T.E.M. programs.
2. It is consistent with the goal to create a more self sustainable population.
3. It clearly fits the Hawai'i Department of Education's Definition of a S.T.E.M. activity.
4. The United States needs a greater emphasis on S.T.E.M. learning.
5. Hawai'i's students currently do not score well on science tests.

The Status of School Gardens

In 2012, 66% of schools in Hawai'i had a School Garden Program. On Hawai'i Island currently there are 65 schools in the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network out of a possible 75, up from 29 in 2008. As of June 2011 on Hawai'i Island there were:

- 6.8 acres of school gardens planted
- 3,000 students participating
- Garden Time per school averaged 6.0 hours per week
- 26 schools had a designated Garden Educator
- Most Garden Educator positions were funded through grants
- There were 64 regular volunteers in gardens each week

The School Garden Program “fits” the HIDEOE definition of S.T.E.M.

According to a 2012 Report to the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Hawai'i Department of education defined STEM:

STEM education integrates the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics by using scientific inquiry and engineering design as unifying processes. STEM emphasizes innovation and the development of problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills through student-focused, rigorous, relevant, and authentic learning.

Source:

[http://doe.k12.hi.us/reports/tolegislature_2012/06_HB0200HB1SD1CD1Section%20132Act%20164\(SLH2011\).pdf](http://doe.k12.hi.us/reports/tolegislature_2012/06_HB0200HB1SD1CD1Section%20132Act%20164(SLH2011).pdf)

Recently HIDOE strongly supported bills re-defining and broadening the scope of instructional learning, explicitly including project based learning. HEPC believes with some flexibility and partnerships the safety issues can be overcome.

The Need for more S.T.E.M. Education

The United State does not rank high among developed countries for science education. According to a December 2011 report from the National Governors Association, U.S. students rank behind 25 countries in math scores and behind 12 countries in science scores. PISA – Program for International Student Assessments, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, reports that students from 16 nations outperformed U.S. students in math in 2010. (Source: <http://www.oecd.org/unitedstates/presentationofthepisa2010results.htm>)

A coalition of middle and high school teachers organizing themselves as: *Laying The Foundation* reports that only 30% of U.S. high school students are ready for college-level science, and only about a third of middle school science teachers were highly qualified. (Source: <http://www.ltfraining.org/Home.aspx>)

The Hawai'i Department of Education tests nearly all 4th, 8th and 10th grade students in science. Recently the tenth grade general science test has been replaced by a Biology test.

Source: <http://sas.sao.k12.hi.us/STATE/SAO/SASWebsite.nsf/By+Category/85D57FAB58F91C210A25763600046705?OpenDocument>

Hawai'i Department of Education Science Test Score Proficiency Percentages								
Grades	2011 Well Below	2012 Well Below	2011 Approaches	2012 Approaches	2011 Meets	2012 Meets	2011 Exceeds	2012 Exceeds
4	13	11	44	44	35	36	8	8
8	32	28	42	41	22	26	4	5
10	27	32	42	46	26	19	5	3

In 2011, Hawai'i high school 10th grade reading and math scores indicate a major gap in proficiency levels: the average percent of students meeting proficiency on Hawai'i's 10th grade reading test was 69%, while the average proficiency level for math was 39%. A school-by-school examination of proficiency levels indicate that the gaps exist within the same schools, drawing students from the same community. Proficiency levels for 8th grade science averaged 26%, while 22% of 10th graders were proficient on the state science test.

Baseline Data is Available To Guide This Initiative

Hawai'i County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline Study 2012.

"We all know we have to support agriculture, we have to commit to being able to feed ourselves," Mayor Billy Kenoi said in releasing the Hawai'i County Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline Study 2012. "If you're going to make good decisions, you have to have access to good information. This is what we need to move forward in a very strategic, tactical way."

The report reveals a checkered agricultural landscape. The island produces virtually all the milk it consumes and more than 17 percent of its beef, for example, but with no commercial poultry operations, it imports all its chicken and eggs, aside from farmers market and other informal sales. Despite vast macadamia nut orchards, the study estimated that less than 5 percent of nuts consumed on the island are macadamias. Half of the 42,000 acres in crop production on the island are macadamia orchards, with an additional 6,000 acres in coffee, while vegetables, fruits and aquaculture account for another 10,000 acres of active agricultural use.

http://geodata.sdal.hilo.hawaii.edu/techgis/sdal/GEODATA/COH_Ag_Project.html

The following Star Advertiser article summarized this study.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/newspremium/Hawai'inewspremium/20120603__Hawai'i_County_paves_way_toward_food_selfreliance.html?id=156886985

Thank you for seriously considering this bill.

HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER

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ohno2-Jun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:30 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 13, 2013 14:00PM

HB478

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	The Kohala Center-HISGN	Comments Only	No

Comments: Comments: Most school gardens are "teaching gardens" but some high school programs have the capability to become production gardens. I would like to see a program to establish a "High School Farm" pilot project, to first become food safety certified, and then to begin providing the cafeteria with some basic foods such as herbs, lettuce, and other salad ingredients. If we want our young people to understand production and markets this would be a real time project. Oregon has established a simple one page sheet for all school gardens to follow if they wish to grow and send food to the cafeteria for student consumption. We could follow their lead. Let's work with our assets and not be dampened by unfounded fears. Let's empower our youth to do the work correctly and lead by example.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HB478 HD1
Relating to the Department of Education
House Committee on Education

February 13, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB478 HD1, which would authorize schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture. It also allows nonprofit organizations to establish and administer fresh food distribution services.

OHA's strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents our commitment to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and quality of life by reducing the onset of chronic diseases. Obesity is a common condition of chronic diseases, and data suggests that Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders are at greater risk for obesity and health complications. As such, OHA's Health Advocacy Initiative Core & Advisory Team is focusing its efforts on decreasing Native Hawaiian obesity rates in relation to Hawai'i's general population.

A pragmatic and holistic approach to address health disparities in our community is to encourage school gardens. School gardens have the potential to show children how to grow a variety of foods and increase their preference for and consumption of vegetables and fruits. In turn, by using the school garden as a teaching tool, it can demonstrate how to improve a diet with home-grown produce. A school garden also has the ability to provide children with a meaningful connection between the land they work on to grow their food, and how it supports a healthy sustainable community for themselves and their family.

At the same time, there is significant support for school gardens on state, national, and global platforms. Through the Farm to School and School Garden Hui, U.S. Department of Agriculture – People's Garden School Pilot Program, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, these government and non-government organizations state the necessity of supporting school gardens. These gardens provide children with hands-on learning opportunities that further support the notion of food security, environmental protection, and better nutrition.

Therefore, OHA urges this committee to **PASS** HB478 HD1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.



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Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

RE: H.B. 478, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Person Testifying: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

To The Honorable Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports HB 478, HD1**, relating to education.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association (NEA), HSTA believes that all public schools should provide the most nutritious, healthy, local grown, organic, and genetically modified organism (GMO) free meals whenever possible.

As such, HSTA is in **support of HB 478, HD1** which authorizes schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture and the school cafeteria manager.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 478, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and the members of the committee,

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

HAIS supports the intent of HB 478, HD 1 which authorizes schools to grow food in school gardens for consumption in the school lunch program; provided that the food is inspected and certified as safe by the Department of Agriculture. This bill also allows nonprofit organizations to establish and administer fresh food distribution services.

In 2010, at the request of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), HAIS launched GROW HAWAII, a three-year effort to build capacity for the use of Hawaii-grown agricultural products in schools, and cultivate healthy food attitudes and behaviors through school garden programs.

GROW HAWAII has found that the personal connection forged when one is able to eat what he/she has planted in the ground as a seed creates a powerful sense of empowerment for the student. Using food grown from the school garden to feed our students and faculty, whether as a snack or a larger capacity feast day, increases school community. We have also observed that if students grow their own food, they have a stronger tendency to eat it; thus, school gardens introduce and encourage students to fresh fruits and vegetables they wouldn't necessarily be exposed to.

While we would like more clarification on the logistics of implementing the bill as written, we support efforts that advance the cause of providing healthy, locally-sourced, food to school children in ways that enhance their connection to the processes that provide their sustenance, such as school gardens. We are also supportive of policy that eases the process by which DOE schools may purchase food from local farms and produce distributors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ohno2-Jun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 10:43 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB478 on Feb 13, 2013 14:00PM*

HB478

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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