

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2015
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**SENATE BILL NO. 376 SD 1
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 376 SD 1. This bill establishes a farm to school program within the Department of Agriculture and creates a coordinator position within the Department and within the Department of Education. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The Department believes in the potential of the school food network to greatly increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables that are procured within the state and has participated in a number of task forces and working groups surrounding this topic that reported to the legislature including: a report to the 2012 Legislature resulting from House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) and a report to the 2010 Legislature per Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009). The Department continues to be an advocate for increased consumption of local agricultural commodities and would point to a recommendation from the most recent report to the 2012 Legislature that advocated exempting local produce from the procurement code for state institutions as an action step that can be taken.

The Department would also defer to the Department of Education as to the creation of a position within their department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





SB376 SD1
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 26, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB376 SD1, which will improve community health and further the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by establishing a statewide farm-to-school program within the Department of Agriculture.

SB376 SD1 takes an integrated approach to simultaneously improve the health of Hawai'i's students and their families, while also supporting Hawai'i's local food industry. The farm-to-school program promoted by this measure includes nutrition education, a school garden component, and the use of locally-grown food in school meals. Such a farm-to-school program may be an important step towards achieving better health outcomes and greater food self-sufficiency in our islands.

By incorporating garden-based learning into school curricula, children will learn healthy eating habits, gain an appreciation for how their food is grown, and learn about the importance of agriculture, lessons that they may then share with their families and larger community. Such outcomes will promote OHA's strategic priority of Maui Ola (Health), which represents a commitment to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. The concept of Maui Ola considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community. Consistent with this concept, by educating children through garden-based learning, and fostering their and their communities' appreciation for outdoor farming activities as well as for fresh and healthy agricultural products, the farm-to-school program promoted by this bill will benefit community health and well-being now and into the future.

In addition to supporting healthy choices and healthy children, this bill will support the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by increasing support for Hawai'i's local agricultural economy. In adopting the targets of the Aloha+ Challenge, the state has committed to doubling local food production by 2030. OHA notes that the principles underlying the Aloha+ Challenge support a renewed commitment to the sustainability practiced by our ancestors, and perpetuated today through the traditional concept of malama 'āina. **By sourcing school meals to local farms, this bill invests in local food production, which may in turn lead to more agricultural jobs, greater incentives for farmer training, and the preservation of agricultural land for agriculture.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 9:00 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 376 SD1 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 376 SD1, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions within the Department of Agriculture and Department of Education.

Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education on the fiscal and management implications of SB 376 SD1, we believe that this is an effective approach to further the goals of greater use of local farm products within the public school system, and a coordinated approach to agricultural, health and nutrition education within the schools.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been active in the discussions around these issues. Should this program be considered a viable approach by the legislature and the referenced departments, we will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote greater use of local farm products and further development of a comprehensive and effective Farm to School Program.

SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Kana`i Dodge	`Ai Pohaku	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Beyond Organic Consulting, Inc.	Support	No

Comments: As a sustainable crop consultant, I work with local farmers and gardeners (including school gardens) to produce high quality, nutritious foods. These ultra-fresh foods should be part of our school children's lunches.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Shrader	Flavor of Hawaii Farms	Support	No

Comments: We are an organic farm and we need more customers. STEM education roots more readily, and deeply, when action-learning methods are employed. Farm to School science, technology, engineering, math, nutrition and sustainable living education is CRITICAL for preparing the next generation of citizens. PLEASE support this plan to improve access to fresh food in our schools and to foster school garden and farm connections to education. Our young students LOVE to learn about nature and food - let's also give them the choice to EAT FRESH and EAT LOCAL while applying STEM concepts. While we're growing smarter children we can grow more informed consumers.

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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 376, SD1
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports SB 376, SD1, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Farm to School Program and two farm to school coordinator positions.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has also done some work in this area in the past. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible, but providing to the entire school system is not. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. We believe that school farms serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology and various technologies including programming, navigation and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of this program. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue the various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, and Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

This should be viewed is an investment in Hawaii's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Kaua'i

Tiana Kamen
Farm to Keiki Preschool Program

Keone Kealoha
*Mālama Kaua'i
Kaua'i School Garden Network*

O'ahu

Hunter Heavilin
O'ahu Farm to School Network

Natalie McKinney
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Debbie Millikan
Iolani School

Elysa Ermatinger
Hoa 'Āina O Makaha

Mahealani Matsuzaki
*Kamehameha Schools
'Āina-Based Education*

Terri Langley
MA'O Organic Farms

Jayne Grzebik
*University of Hawai'i
Master Gardeners*

Moloka'i

Harmonee Williams
*Sustainable Moloka'i
Moloka'i School Garden Network*

Maui & Lana'i

Lehn Huff
Maui & Lana'i School Garden Network

Nio Kindla & Kirk Surry
Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Island

Nancy Redfeather & Donna Mitts
*The Kohala Center
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network*

Statewide

Jennifer Ryan & Leimomi Dierks
Hawai'i Department of Health

Dexter Kishida
Hawai'i Department of Education, SFSB

Jennifer Dang
Hawai'i Department of Education, HCNP

Lillian Coltin
Hawai'i Department of Education

Andrea Snow
FoodCorps

Pacific Region

Dr. Koh Ming Wei
Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

SB376 SD1: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports SB376 SD1**, which establishes a farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education.

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of six island-level networks, along with representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health, whose mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

We acknowledge and are grateful for the legislature's interest in and support of farm to school, as evidenced by the many farm to school bills introduced each session. **The state-level farm to school coordinators established through the passage of this bill will provide the necessary focus, expertise, direct action, and informed policymaking so essential to the realization of a vibrant and successful farm to school program for Hawai'i.** Nineteen other US states and the District of Columbia have already established state-level farm to school coordinators in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems as of February 2014, in recognition of the value brought by a coordinated effort lead by appropriately skilled and assigned individuals.

State-level farm to school coordinators in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture (HDOA) and Education (HDOE) will **plan and work strategically together** and with other state agencies, businesses, and community stakeholders, to achieve a robust and successful farm to school program for Hawai'i as outlined below.

Proposed duties of the HDOA Farm to School Coordinator

- Encourage cooperation among farmers through the formation of local cooperatives or centralized gathering and processing facilities (e.g., food hubs).
- Connect distributors with local farms; facilitate account setup and product scheduling.
- Educate HDOE School Food Services Branch (SFSB) and distributors on availability and seasonality of products in their regions (product availability list).
- Help draft agreements between HDOE SFSB and distributors to include:
 - access to buying records showing product origins;
 - preference for locally grown and produced items.
- Assist local farms and school gardens with food safety and GAP (good agricultural practices) certification; develop a process with HDOE SFSB to allow for the serving of school garden produce in school cafeterias.
- Work with the US Department of Defense (DoD) to purchase more Hawai'i local agricultural products (a portion of the food for HDOE SFSB is sourced from DoD).
- Support increased agricultural literacy for students and communities through farm field trips, farmer visits to schools, and collaboration on agriculture education initiatives.

Proposed duties of the HDOE Farm to School Coordinator

- Collect baseline data on the amount of locally grown foods sourced by HDOE SFSB for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).
- Collect baseline data on student preferences and plate waste.
- Facilitate the increased consumption of locally grown foods by Hawai'i's students through support for school gardens, nutrition education, cooking lessons/demonstrations, farm field trips, and other agriculture education initiatives.
- Convene a farm to school working group within HDOE to include facilitate communication between SFSB, OCISS (Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support), Office of School Facilities and Support Services, Office of the Superintendent, etc.

A successful statewide farm to school program will also depend on collaboration with the State Procurement Office and their facilitation of increased procurement of locally grown foods by all state agencies through the development of a special innovative procurement process (HB1028).

An allocation of \$150,000 each for HDOA and HDOE is the estimated amount needed for personnel costs and operating expenses to oversee Hawai'i's farm to school program. The following information illustrates how this relatively small investment can and will provide huge returns for our state in the areas of **agriculture, education, health, and the economy**.

Benefits of Farm to School

When improvements in school food are combined with increased educational opportunities for students in nutrition and agriculture, research has shown the following important benefits of farm to school:

- ✓ Improvement in early childhood and K-12 eating behaviors; increased physical activity.
- ✓ Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings; improved student behavior.
- ✓ Increased student meal participation (generating more revenue for school meal programs); improvements in food service staff motivation and morale.
- ✓ Increased income for farmers; increase in market diversification.
- ✓ Establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.
- ✓ Increase in economic activity (an estimated \$2.16 of local economic activity stimulated by each dollar invested in farm to school).

Source: "The Benefits of Farm to School," National Farm to School Network, July 2014. (<http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>)

Economic Impact: Health

Farm to school has the potential to impact the following sobering statistics regarding the health of Hawai'i's citizens and the associated costs to our economy:

- **82% of adults in Hawai'i have at least one of the following chronic diseases or conditions:** heart disease, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, asthma, disability, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, or obesity.
- **Physical inactivity and poor nutrition** are the second and third top contributors to the development of chronic diseases, after tobacco use.
- In 2010, the cost of treating chronic disease in Hawai'i totaled \$3.6 billion and worker absenteeism contributed to an additional \$221 million in costs for an **annual economic loss of \$3.8 billion**. The cost of medical treatment alone is projected to increase to \$6.7 billion by 2020.
- Hawai'i spends an estimated **\$470 million dollars annually on obesity-related medical costs**, and about **\$770 million on diabetes-related medical costs**.

Source: "Hawai'i Coordinated Chronic Disease Framework," Hawai'i Department of Health, March 2014. (<http://health.hawaii.gov/chronic-disease/files/2014/09/CDFrameworkLR.pdf>)

Economic Impact: Agriculture

The HDOE SFSB serves approximately 100,000 meals per day or 24 million meals a year, and spends approximately 41% of their budget or \$44 million per year on food.

- If we were to assume that 10% of the SFSB food budget is sourced locally (\$4.4 million), the remaining 90% or \$39.6 million is sourced from producers outside the state.
- If we were to **replace 10% of the SFSB food expenditure** from produce currently sourced outside the state with produce that is sourced locally, this would translate into **\$3.96 million in purchase value each year.**
- Assuming the farm gate percentage is 30% of the purchase price, this translates to **additional revenue of \$1.188 million at the farm level.**
- Applying a sales multiplier effect of 2.0, an earnings multiplier of 0.5 and a job multiplier of 25 per \$1,000,000 increase in farm gate value, the additional revenue would generate an **estimated statewide impact of \$2.376 million in sales, \$594,000 in earnings and 30 new jobs created.** (Note that the farm gate estimates and multipliers used in this assessment are to be found in the paper by Leung and Loke listed below).

Sources:

- “Health Impact Assessment on the 2010 Hawaii County Agriculture Development Plan,” The Kohala Center, February 2012. (<http://kohalacenter.org/archive/pdf/HIAFullReportFinalWeb.pdf>)
- “Economic Impacts of Increasing Hawai'i's Food Self-Sufficiency,” P. Leung and M. Loke, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, December 2008. (<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/files/2012/12/FoodSSReport.pdf>)
- “Hawai'i's Federally Subsidized Public School Lunch Program and the Hawai'i Department of Education's Food Safety Requirements for It,” J. Hollyer, G. Owens, D. Kishida, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, December 2012. (<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/FST-50.pdf>)

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui looks forward to working closely with the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and other state agencies and community stakeholders to build a strong state-level farm to school program on behalf of a healthy future for all of Hawai'i's keiki.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Lydi Morgan Bernal
Coordinator
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org

SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Chair Tokuda and esteemed members of the Senate WAM Committee, HFUU stands in strong support of funding 2 positions for farm to school coordinators. Getting keiki involved in food production at a young age is a good investment. Hawaii has real food security problems, and we need a new generation of farmers as quickly as possible, so starting children in school gardens is priceless for the future of our food security Mahalo for your support for SB 376, With Aloha, Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Vice President & Legislative Committee Chairman

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of SB376 SD1
Relating to a Farm to School Program
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
26 February 2015, 9:00am, Room 211**

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB376 SD1, which will establish the Hawai'i farm to school program and create two Farm to School Coordinator positions - one at Department of Agriculture and another at Department of Education. This will jointly increase institutional purchasing of local foods and to coordinate a framework that supports agricultural education from pre-school through college.

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

SB376 SD1 will help advance action on the Aloha+ Challenge's local food production 2030 target: "At least double local food production - 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally." The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The Aloha+ Challenge was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **SB376 SD1**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman".

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>



Testimony: SB 376 SD1
Thursday February 26, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Nancy Redfeather
Director Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai'i
The Kohala Center – Hawai'i Island

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Farm to School was a natural part of Hawaii's school food procurement system until the late 1970s. Through the 70s, most schools on Hawai'i Island had large school gardens tended by students and teachers and the majority of the produce went directly into the cafeteria and was incorporated into student meals. It is not a new idea to procure locally, but an idea that was lost and is now being rethought in a way that focuses on both improving student health and achievement and connecting students to core curriculum through project-based, experiential learning in school gardens and school farms. These outdoor classrooms are perfect learning laboratories where students can "practice" the "big ideas" of both the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

As the State Supervisor for the FoodCorps Hawai'i Program, a Hawai'i State Americorp Program, we currently place 9 full time Garden/Nutrition Educators/Service Members in 12 public schools on 3 Islands. These young leaders work directly with their Administration and Faculty to create school garden programs and curriculum that align with the school's educational goals, and engage our youth in meaningful and inspiring work. They also assist the USDA/ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs on each campus.

Bringing this education to all the children in Hawai'i requires a broader partnership between community and government/institutions/agencies.

As you know, it has long been a priority for Hawai'i to develop and grow food self-reliance. A Farm to School program, focused on increasing local institutional purchasing and creating a framework and support for school gardens and school farms, will finally

place staff positions in State Agencies that can work together to strategize, prioritize inter-agency interests, and create a road map to grow production for local purchasing, and help to create future generations of farmers and knowledgeable citizens who know the value of locally produced foods and support their consumption.

Healthy habits are taking root all across the county. Farm to School Program Legislation has passed in 20 states with another 17 introducing Legislation. An investment in the health of Hawaii's students is also an investment in the health of local economies. In 2012, school districts in the US purchased over \$386 million in locally produced food from farmers, ranchers, fisherman and food processors and manufactures. Farm to School programs provide access to new and diversified markets. Individual producers across the US are experiencing a 5% increase in income by participating in local programs, and forward contracting with producers is becoming increasingly popular.

In the latest SAWS Survey (Safety and Wellness Survey) conducted by the Department of Health from school year 2012-2013, 192/241 schools have school gardens, 88% use it daily for instructional purposes and 68% use the garden for the sciences and STEM.

From our 2012 Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) DOE Survey of School Gardens, there are over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers working over 1,000 hours per week, growing food, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state.

Funding for a school garden educator position and equipment needs were identified as the highest priorities of the 168 schools that took the survey. Broader community involvement and cultivating sustainability were their highest vision priorities.

We are so fortunate to have the USDA standing by to be a major partner with our state agencies in the development of a Farm to School Program. The Kohala Center recently received a USDA Farm to School Grant to identify best practices in the USDA/FFVP Program statewide, increase capacity and support for the State HFSSGH, and align school garden activities with the Common Core and Science Standards.

While non-profits and community organizations can initiate change and move programs forward, there comes a time when government and agencies are needed to grow the partnership. That time is now. The investment made in these two positions will be just the catalyst needed to grow our agricultural economy, increase student health, and pave the way for a brighter food future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
Nancy Redfeather
The Kohala Center



To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: February 25, 2015

Hrg: Senate Committee on Ways and Means; Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 211

Re: **Support for SB 376, SD1, Relating to a Farm to School Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Bill 376, SD1, which will create a farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture and to provide funding for two farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the State's farm to school program.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a health Hawaii. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth.

There is a growing trend of childhood obesity in Hawaii with approximately 1 out of 4 children entering Kindergarten are overweight or obese. There is a growing demand for farm to school programs nationally. According to Oregon's Department of Agriculture and Department of Education, a successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic achievement and behavior. Oregon State Coordinators work together and with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown foods for schools, encouraging students' consumption of locally grown foods.

Farm to school activities have been proven to support a nutritious school food environment and more than 85 percent of youth in Hawaii attend public schools. Students who participate in farm to school activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume more fruits and vegetable at school and at home. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. The leading causes of death in Hawaii are heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, all illnesses that are often associated with dietary behaviors. There are currently at least twenty states that have established farm to school programs and coordinator positions to improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks.

HIPHI supports SB 376, SD1 which would use monies from general revenues of the State of Hawaii to establish two full-time farm to school coordinator positions, one in the Department of Education and one in the Department of Agriculture, for FY 2015-2016 (\$150,000.00 each). The two coordinators will work in collaboration with one another, as well as other stakeholders, to address issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.

850 Richards St., Suite 201 | Honolulu, HI 96813 | T 808.591.6508

hiphi.org



For the keiki of Hawaii, we respectfully ask you to pass SB 376, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Potocko	Ilio Lani Farm, LLC	Support	No

Comments: This is a no-brainer. Schools are run at the state and local level. The farm-to-school movement is a result of moving back to traditional, sustainable, community-oriented action to improve the health of our society. Improved diet and understanding of agriculture's importance in our daily lives will benefit farmers, students, and parents alike. A state-funded position gives this movement the teeth it needs to establish relationships and ensure a state-wide opportunity for improved health. Farms such as ours would use such a resource to expand our outreach efforts. Mahalo.

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kōkua hawai'i foundation



February 24, 2015

Aloha Senators,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation STRONGLY supports SB376 SD1, establishing the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and two Farm to School Coordinator positions in the Departments of Education and Agriculture.

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our programs include 'ĀINA In Schools, 3R's School Recycling, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grants, and Plastic Free Hawai'i.

'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes a standards-based nutrition, garden, and compost curriculum that empowers children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. 'ĀINA In Schools also promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demonstrations in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities for families and community members. We work directly with 16 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 146 educators from nearly 100 schools from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

Over the last eight years, we have made great strides in the realm of school gardens and nutrition education. However, procurement of locally grown produce for school meals has been especially challenging. Establishing a state-level Farm to School Program will bring a level of expertise and commitment that will bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into schools statewide. The Hawai'i Farm to School Program will further bolster the reach and impact of the garden and nutrition educational programs that have been implemented by non-profit organizations across the state.

We support Hawai'i in becoming the 20th state that has state-level farm to school program. These 19 states with state-level farm to school programs have seen great increases in the amount of locally grown food served in schools and positive health, behavioral, and economic impacts of their programs. Please see the attached document from the National Farm to School Network, "The Benefits of Farm to School" for specific examples and statistics of how farm to school programs benefit students, schools, and local economies.

We strongly urge you to vote in support of SB376 SD1!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, Executive Director

Natalie McKinney,
Director of Program Development

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.



THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

Stay Informed

Join our network:
www.farmtoschool.org

Twitter
[@FarmtoSchool](https://twitter.com/FarmtoSchool)

Facebook
<http://on.fb.me/nfsnf2s>

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following:

Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test.

Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

School gardens: Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school activities provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities and food producers. This document outlines those cross-sectoral benefits and cites the the research behind them. Farm to school is growing our future leaders, consumers, producers and community members.

Cross-sectoral benefits of farm to school



PUBLIC HEALTH

Farm to school activities provide healthy food options and nutrition and food-based education to influence healthy eating behaviors and healthy lifestyles in children. Through the use of school and community gardens, farm to school can contribute to healthy neighborhoods where communities have a better understanding of how food is grown and how food affects their health and wellness.



ECONOMY

Farm to school provides economic development opportunities to producers (i.e. farmers, ranchers, fishers) and laborers, distributors, processors, cooks and foodservice staff, as well as others who support the local food system.



EDUCATION

Farm to school can support educational outcomes for students by increasing student access to healthy foods in schools and promoting educational activities that help children and families learn about and develop skills related to healthy eating. Farm to school curriculum and experiential activities are also a platform to teach core content areas such as science, math and language arts.



ENVIRONMENT

Farm to school activities can support environmentally sound, sustainable and socially just approaches to food production, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing. Farm to school activities may promote an ecological ethic among participants, develop infrastructure that supports healthy environments and promote agriculture and food distribution practices that mitigate climate change.



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and preschools.

Student Health and Achievement

Farm to school is a school-based strategy that focuses on creating a healthy school food environment.¹ Farm to school activities support children's development of healthy eating habits—such as preferences for and consumption of fruits and vegetables—while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.²⁻⁵ Key outcomes include:

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 eating behaviors, including choosing healthier options in the cafeteria; consuming more fruits and vegetables through farm to school meals and at home (+0.99 to +1.3 servings/day); consuming less unhealthy foods and sodas; reducing screen time; and increasing physical activity.⁶⁻³¹
- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods and seasonality (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,26,31-33}
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,30-33}
- Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings; provides children with an understanding of agriculture and the environment; and improves life skills, self-esteem, social skills and behavior.³⁴⁻³⁵

Food Service Costs, Revenue, Interest

- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), thus generating increased revenue through school meals programs.^{8-9,20-21,23-25,36}
- Improvements in food service operations, such as increased cafeteria offerings of fruits and vegetables; development of new seasonal recipes; and changes in cafeteria waste management policies.^{8-9,21,23-25,36,37}
- Improvement in food service staff motivation and morale; increase in knowledge and interest in local food preparation and seasonal recipes; and increase in interactions with teachers to strengthen classroom/cafeteria connections.^{7,22,38}

Benefits for Farmers

In general, purchases from local sources increase as farm to school programming matures, with potential local sourcing of up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.^{7-9,20,22-23,25,36-37,39}

- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales for individual farmers.^{7,9,20,22-23,36,39}
- Increase in market diversification; positive relationships with school districts, parents and community members; farmers contracted to plant crops for schools; opportunities to explore processing and preservation methods for institutional markets; establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.³⁶⁻³⁷



Community and Economy

- Increase in community awareness and interest about purchasing local foods and foods served in school cafeterias.^{7,22}
- Increase in economic activity. In one study, each dollar invested in farm to school stimulated an additional \$2.16 of local economic activity.⁴⁰
- Strengthened connections within the state's food economy.⁴⁰
- Improved household food security.⁴⁰
- Creation and maintenance of jobs; for every job created by school districts purchasing local foods, additional economic activity would create another 1.67 jobs.⁴⁰

Teachers






















- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum.^{7,20-22, 30}

Parents

- Increase in ability and interest in incorporating healthier foods in family diets and guiding children in early childhood and K-12 age groups to make healthier choices; positive changes in shopping patterns reflecting healthy and local foods.^{7,20,22,27,33}
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets in the area.³³
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.³³

Summary of Farm to School Benefits

The core elements of farm to school (local procurement, school gardens, food and farm related education) provide for unique crosssectoral outcomes and linkages in public health, community economic development, education and environmental quality.

Population	Benefits	Cross-sector Benefits
Students		
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings/ day	Public Health 
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health 
Food-system awareness	Increased knowledge regarding: gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health  Education  Environmental Quality 
Academic achievement	Overall improvement (K-12)	Education 
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem and social skills	Education 
Schools		
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Public Health  Economic Development 
Local Sourcing	Up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development  Environmental Quality 
Improved cafeteria operations	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables, new seasonal recipes, new waste management policies	Public Health 
Food service staff	Improved morale, increased knowledge	Education  Economic Development 
Teachers	Positive diet and lifestyle changes	Public Health 
Farmers		
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development 
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development 
Community		
Economy	\$2.16 economic activity generated for every \$1 spent	Economic Development 
Job creation	Each new farm to school job contributes to the creation of additional 1.67 jobs	Economic Development 
Families	Increased food security and positive diet changes	Public Health 

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February 24, 2015

SB376 SD1: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Maui School Garden Network **strongly supports SB376 SD1**, which establishes a farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education.

The Maui School Garden Network was founded in 2008 with five schools and presently consists of 43 schools on Maui and Lana'i out of a possible 44 schools. The number of teachers actively involved in garden learning is over 200 and the number of students actively engaged in garden learning is over 6,000. The growth of this movement has been fed by the recognized need for and success with garden learning PreK-12 as a tool to promote better nutrition among our children, reduce food related illnesses, increase the consumption of local fruits and vegetables in our schools, integrate subject areas taught in our schools, promote STEM education, increase achievement, decrease disciplinary problems and promote career interest in agriculture and its related careers.

We recognize through research from over 19 other states who have implemented farm to school coordinator positions at the state level that increased communication between health, agriculture, and education is the key to a successful farm to school movement that can more efficiently address the goals stated above.

Programs such as the one we are proposing can be successfully sustained through a variety of collaborative funding configurations that involve public and private sources and recognize the synergy that can be achieved through measures that do not stop with "we can't afford it" but spring

from measures that ask, “how CAN we afford this?/How can we make this work?”

Below, please find a group of students from Pukalani El surrounding their compost bin adding a mixture of carbon and nitrogen materials to enhance the fertility of their soil. We are working for them and for their future as we should be.....



Mahalo,

Lehn Huff, Director, Maui School Garden Network



TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

SB376 SD1: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee,

The National Farm to School Network **strongly supports SB376 SD1**, which establishes a farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education.

Farm to school/preschool is the practice of sourcing local food for K-12 schools and early care and education settings and providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, such as school gardens, farm field trips, and cooking lessons. Farm to school improves the health of children and communities while supporting local and regional farmers (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), founded in 2007, seeks to create strong and just local food systems that ensure the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities. NFSN provides vision, leadership and support to connect and strengthen the farm to school movement, which includes tens-of-thousands of schools and early care settings in all 50 states and DC.

A recently released report, the "State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2013"

(http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/State_Farm_to_School_Legislative_Survey_4_2014.pdf), highlights the growing commitment from US states and the District of Columbia to advance policies that promote farm to school.

As of February 2014, nineteen US states and the District of Columbia have established one or more farm to school coordinator positions at the state level in their departments of agriculture, education and/or university systems.

These states include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Farm to school coordinators play a key role in the development of successful statewide farm to school programs through increased interagency and public-private sector communication and collaboration. Coordinated farm to school efforts enhance local agriculture industries for farmers (e.g., food safety, food hubs), facilitate educational opportunities for students (e.g., school gardens, nutrition education, cooking lessons, farm field trips), strengthen school meal and snack programs through cafeterias and staff support and increased procurement of fresh locally grown foods, and inform effective policy making around farm to school.

Considering the proven benefits of farm to school programs (see "The Benefits of Farm to School," <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>) in the areas of agriculture, education, health and the



economy, the creation of a state-level farm to school program and coordinator positions in both the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education will be a sound investment.

We welcome any questions you may have, and we thank you for your efforts to advance farm to school.

Sincerely,

Anupama Joshi
Executive Director & Co-Founder
National Farm to School Network

Helen Dombalis
Policy and Strategic Partnerships Director
National Farm to School Network

Stacey Sobell
Western Regional Lead
National Farm to School Network

Natalie Talis
Policy Associate
National Farm to School Network

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcy montgomery	One Island Sustainable Living	Support	No

Comments: Farm to School science, nutrition and sustainable living education is CRITICAL for preparing our next generation of citizens. PLEASE support this plan to improve access to fresh food in our schools and to foster school garden and farm connections to education. Our young students LOVE to learn about nature and food - let's also give them the choice to EAT FRESH and EAT LOCAL.

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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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 26, 2015 – 9:00 AM – Room 211

RE: SB 376 SD1 - Relating to a Farm to School Program - In Support

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 376 SD1, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions.

This measure will provide the necessary means for the foundation of a farm to school program in Hawai'i. This valuable program will allow students to gain access to healthy, local foods while stimulating the local economy. By dedicating coordinators from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education, this will ensure a coordinated effort that will ultimately benefit our students, farmers, and our community.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. The Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 376 SD1. Thank you.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Waihuena Farm	Support	No

Comments:

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.Feb. 11

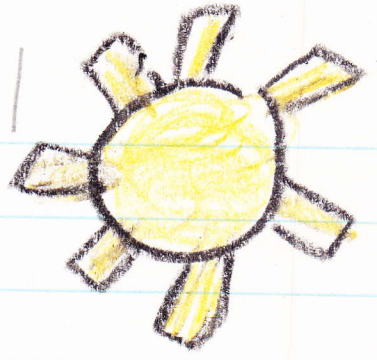
Dear Lawmaker,

I support SB376 and HB627
to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM.
First of all, it's fun. Next, we get exercise.
Also, you're taking care of the earth
when you have a garden. Last, we get
to take a break from sitting at our
desks and learning about nature. So please
listen to me and support a FARM to
SCHOOL PROGRAM-HB627 and SB376

Darios Davis
Grade 3
Sunset Beach Elem.



Feb. 11



Dear Lawmaker,

I support SB376 and HB627 to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM. I think there should be a garden at every school because it is teaching kids about taking care of the earth. I also think we should have a garden at every school because it is fun and it gives kids a good experience in the garden. It uses teamwork, also. Gardening is a good exercise. So please support the FARM to SCHOOL bills.



Kana
 Grade 3
 Sunrise Beach Elem.



Feb. 11

Dear lawmaker,

I support SB 376 and HB 627 to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM. First, I support those bills because if we eat healthy food we grow, it teaches us to eat healthy. This experience gives us the opportunity to get to plant and grow things. Also, it's great to eat fruits and vegetables that have not been sprayed with chemicals or pesticides. Next, gardening is a fun thing to do so you can try new foods that you grew! Last, if farmers keep on putting chemicals on plants, the wind or rain will sweep into the ocean and pollute the air, so please support SB 376 and HB 627 which are bills to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM.



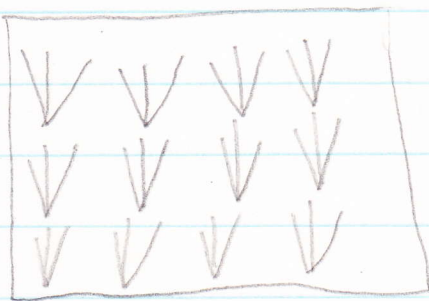
Bao Jones
Grade 3
Sunset Beach Elem.

Feb. 11 2019

Dear Lawmaker,

I Support SB376 and HB627 to create a FARM to School Program.

I think that kids deserve to have a School garden because with my experience it is so much fun in a garden and learning about planting a garden with my class. Also, a lot of people can work together get good exercise and have fun with friends. Studies have shown that when kids get a lot of exercise their brain cells will grow and they will get smarter. That is why I think that kids should have a garden at school. So please.



Kate Shower
Grade 3
Sunset Beach
Elem



Feb. 11

Dear Lawmaker,

I Support SB376
and HB627 to create
a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM.

I think every child needs a school garden because we want to eat healthy foods. Also I had a lot of excitement with the garden and maybe other kids might have a lot of joy gardening too. Lastly, people can work with others and learn to get along. So... please make sure every child gets a garden at his or her school. Make sure you pass HB627 and SB376. please.

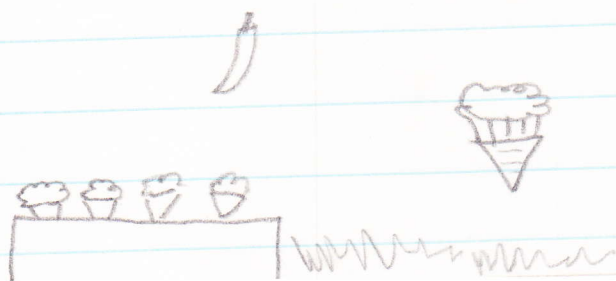
Aloha,
Ellery Grade 3
Sunset Beach Elementary
School

Feb. 11, 2015

Dear Lawmaker

I support SB376 and HB627 to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM! Here are some reasons I think every kid like me should have a garden. First it is because it is fun. Next we get to learn how to take care of ourselves. Also, gardening is good exercise. So..... please give every child an opportunity to have a garden a School. Please support HB627 and SB376 and make the FARM to SCHOOL program happen for all the children in Hawaii.

Maya
3 grade
Sunset Beach
Elementary School



Feb. 11

Dear Lawmakers,

I support SB376 and HB627 to create FARM TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM. It's important to have a garden at schools because it's fun to garden. It's also important to have gardens at schools because in kindergarden I planted a carrot and a radish seed. Then months later the carrot and radish grew and I got to wash them and eat them. It's fun to have a garden because to push mulch up to the orchard as a team. SO... please listen and support and pass on HB627 and SB376.



Cream
Grade 3
Sunset Beach Elem. School

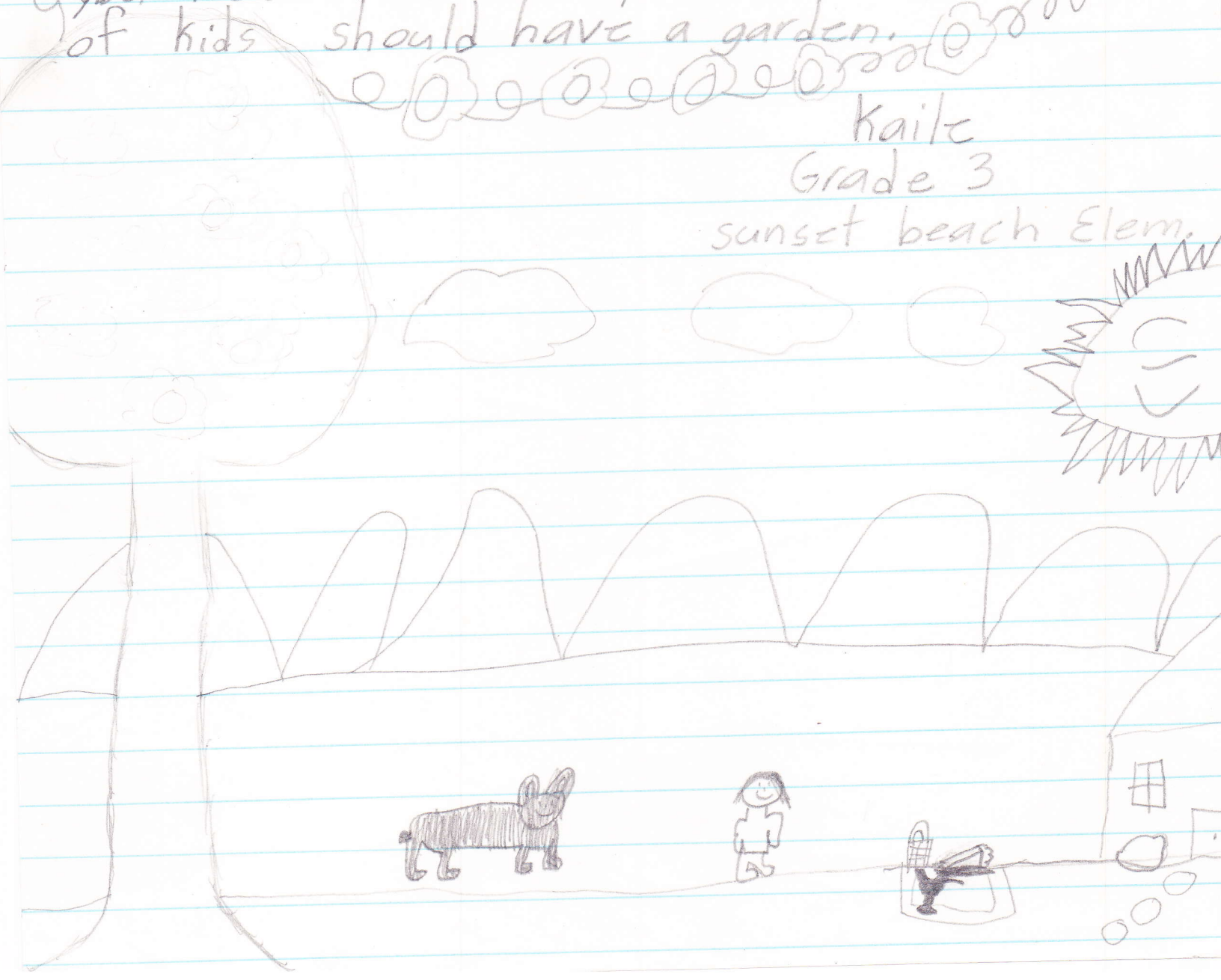
Feb. 11

Dear Lawmaker,

I support SB376 and HB627 to create a Farm to school Program! I think every student needs a garden because first it is fun. Next it is good exercise and Last you don't have to go to the store and buy whatever you need. That is why I think a lot of kids should have a garden.

Kaile
Grade 3

sunset beach Elem.



SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	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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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Gommers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This will encourage the small farmer population to increase by attracting more people to the art of farming....and it will help teach our young people how important fresh local produce is to us all.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Pitcaithley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am excited to hear about and fully support the farm to school program bill that is up for a vote in the Senate. It will enhance learning about sustainability. I believe that students will learn to appreciate the value of nutrition and its relationship to a healthy lifestyle, as well as appreciation for fresh fruits and vegetables.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
autumn ness	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Shafer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Marsh	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support the Farm to School Program by allocating a bill that will support hiring for the leadership positions to institute it.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I hope that someday we will give children what they deserve, food grown on the same island that they live on. This measure helps the FARMERS and it gives to the children. Please pass this legislation.

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Aloha,

My name is Calah Nakasone and I strongly support SB 376. I am the mother of two young boys who are starting out their educational journey, and I would like to see more nutrition education, and gardening programs provided. The integration of agricultural programs are important to the education of our children and our future generations for the sustainability of resources. The connection of people to the land that we live on is an important value to instill and the creation of locally grown produce is both good for our aina and good for the soul. That our children can learn to grow, nurture and harvest their own food, that is priceless. In the high cost of living in Hawaii society not many can afford the luxury of having a home garden as the space may simply not be available. By allowing this to be integrated into their educational program will give them life skills they may not have otherwise had. The seeds to be used I ask to be organic, that by teaching them gardening we also teach them the importance of seeds and their nutrition.

Mahalo.

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D Brothers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, 9:00am

SUPPORT of SB376 SD1: Relating to a Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB376 SD1, which establishes farm to school coordinator positions in the Department of Agriculture and Department of Education. As a farm to school educator, I know firsthand how important this program is for our children, our schools and our farmers. I also write on behalf of our students who for them, garden and nutrition education is vital for their health and well-being.

The work needed to create a strong Farm to School program in Hawaii will take collaboration among many state level agencies, the private sector and our schools, none of which can happen without state-wide coordinators.

Please support the establishment of Farm to School positions in the DOA and DOE.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Debbie Millikan, Ph.D.
Sustainability Specialist
'Iolani School

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Heacock	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha no Senators, I strongly support SB 376, HD1, a Farm to School program for Hawaii. This program has great potential to increase students understanding of food production, gardening and sustainable agriculture; additionally, it will improve the nutritional values of school meals and benefit farmers, students and the general community. Please support and pass SB 376, HD1. Sincerely, Donald E. Heacock Kauai Sustainable Agroecological Systems Box 1323, Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Farm to School Bill is an important step in creating a more sustainable local food system that will not only provide more local jobs, but will provide a significant amount of healthy foods for children. This will train the next generation to eat healthier and directly impact their lives. It will also be better for the environment as we are using less fossil fuels to ship over food. It will also support the growth of more local farms. Thank you.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Aloii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elif Beall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Frank	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Allowing our schools to feed our keiki locally produced food is a no-brainer. Not only will this provide highly nutritious food at school but it will also help our local farmers. You got this! Mahalo, Elijah Frank

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Heather Salmon, Maui County Resident

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB376– RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Aloha Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of this bill that would establish the Hawaii farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions.

Having worked in the schools and seen the processed unhealthy food that is served to our growing children is of grave concern to me. We import 90% of our food. We know that it is most healthy to eat locally. In addition, the Farm to School program would increase demand for our local produce. We know that a 10% reduction in imports and growing locally instead would inject over \$200 million into our economy. It only makes sense to create this program.

Sincerely,

Heather Salmon

SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
howie simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: strongly support this bill for the benefits this program will bring.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Worchel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This is worthwhile bill that assist Hawaii in developing a sustainable agricultural industry necessary for the ongoing welfare of the State

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill that is so important for education and agriculture in Hawaii!

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen U	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I work K-6 students that have been coming to a school garden weekly. The enthusiasm and openness to trying new, healthy, whole foods is astounding, especially when compared to the kids from visiting schools I work with who are coming from a school without a garden. The difference in their vegetable eating habits and connection with the 'aina is stark, and has fully convinced me that the only way to proceed in the move toward a healthier generation of kids is to put a school garden in EVERY school. Additionally, I work with three local high school interns on the school farm every week, and in their few short months with me, they have tried a massive variety of new foods from the land, have started trading out their cup noodle lunches for fresher options, and have demolished bowls of salad in front of my eyes. Now, without hesitation, they take home vegetables to their families that they were skeptical to try just a few months ago. They tell stories of the new ways they try to incorporate whole foods into their daily life, and they walk along the land with their eyes open to the plants around them. In just a few short months at the school farm, they have started to bloom into future leaders, have pulled a total 180 in their lunch choices, and are quickly becoming local ambassadors for fresh, whole foods in their families and communities. I am blown away by what regular access to the 'aina, in a school environment, can do for young children as well as our older students who will so soon become adults who help shape our world. What do we want our communities to look like in ten years? How do we want our children to be living and eating now and when they grow into adults? What if we could prevent future cases of type two diabetes, so that when we look deep into the loving eyes of a first grader, we know we're doing everything in our power to give them a good, healthy life? What if Hawai'i--a place where we all have too many loved ones affected by diet related diseases--became the shining example of how to do school gardens right, how to prioritize student health and outdoor learning, and how to put funding toward a brighter future for all of our keiki? Let's make this choice. Open the floodgates. Let the waves of soil, sunshine, fresh greens, and kalo fuel the lives of the keiki. Let the children return to the 'aina, and bring forth a revolution of health and human well-being.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Bready	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: www.WeAreOne.cc

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kathleen sheehan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support Farm to School in Hawaii!

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Germain	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I truly believe that the State of Hawaii should embrace and be an example to the rest of the United States by passing this bill which will ensure farm to school programs, school gardens and nutritional education for all of Hawaii's students. Please do what is pono today. Mahalo nui loa! Kerry Germain

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Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Surry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This legislation is vital to making connections with our youth to inspire the next generation of farmers, chefs, teachers, scientists and entrepreneurs that create a more sustainable future for these islands. These farm-to-school positions will also provide new channels to make fresh local produce available to families all income levels. Please support this bill and make an honest investment in local, sustainable agriculture -- starting with our keiki!

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of creating a Farm to School program in the State of Hawaii with two fully funded coordinator positions. I believe that the opportunity to educate our children and support our local farmers together is an important aspect of education which should not be missed.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lars Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill to establish the Hawaii farm to school program--so important for educating our keiki as well as for Hawaiian agriculture.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauryn rego	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lin ter Horst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Maruyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a parent of children at public schools and am a strong supporter of public education. Through the years, I have been concerned about the quality of the food served by the DOE to students; in particular, the amount of processed and canned foods. School farms will make fresh, healthy food available for students and expose them to healthy ways of living. These programs will build awareness and create a proficiency in agriculture amongst students, contributing over time to an enlightened workforce. I support the idea of an institutional program of school farms and strongly support any effort to dedicate resources to this effort. Thank you.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LORNA POE	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii's keiki need improved food, nutrition education and school gardening programs. Help us instill the knowledge of self sustainability in their lives so they may grow into adults that nurture our people and our aina.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lucienne de naie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha WAM committee members. I strongly support expansion of our efforts to bring our locally grown farm foods to our schools. We all need to work to keep farming viable and support our farmers. This program helps provide healthy food for our keiki and economic opportunities for our farmers. Mahalo Lucienne de Naie, Huelo, Maui

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Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Magaly L.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcy montgomery	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am an educator who joined the Hawaii Island School Garden Network and you have every member in our group's UNANIMOUS SUPPORT to fund farm to school resources. I personally volunteer at a local school garden and believe whole heartedly that the link between health and longevity begins with the foods we eat. Our keiki deserve the best, most nutritious, SAFEST foods available and that means LOCAL FOODS for Families. Imported/packaged/processed foods cripple our youth physically and mentally. FRESH IS BEST! PLEASE SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL!!!

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Lind	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the HI farm to school program and the establishment of two coordinator positions. Please help support Hawaiian agriculture and education of our youth!

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of SB376 to ensure that Hawai'i becomes the 20th state with a farm to school program. Those that have already established similar programs have seen an increase in improved health and have also created a more robust, positive learning environment on their campuses. This program will create a more diversified, locally grown agricultural community for citizens across the state, not just for those within the school system.

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SB376

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maryetta Sciuto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/25/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This bill will dramatically influence the health and livelihood of the Keiki on our island for the better. Local farmers will greatly benefit as well from this measure. The only thing that has to lose from this measure passing are the big businesses which are currently supplying the lunches to schools who are all located off island. We have a chance to create a local and closed economic system that will provide the freshest and healthiest ingredients to our future generations. Thank you, Naomi Picinich

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NIKHILANANDA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter deVries	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Kinslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Farm-to-School is broadly supported across the islands in our communities. I've presented and/or facilitated more than 50 discussions across Oahu that focused on sustainability. Farm-to-School always brought smiles of assent to my audience faces.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ranae Ganske-Cerizo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a former agriculture educator the importance of passing this bill will increase agricultural production; most importantly providing agricultural careers for a new generation of farmers.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the Hawaii Farm to School program to feed our keki nutritious food that is grown here on Hawaii

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Submitted on: 2/24/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have taught 3rd grade at Sunset Beach Elem. for 26 years and have always had a garden. It is critical for children to learn how to grow their own food and nurture the land. I have taught math, science, language arts, social studies, cooking, and teamwork in the garden. By learning to build and tend a garden, children become better steward of themselves, eating healthful food, and, in turn, become better stewards of their surroundings. The children respect Nature more. Children who struggle in the academic classroom become stars in the garden! My students take their knowledge home and inspire their parent(s) to build a garden. Please, pass SB376 SD1 and give students across the state the opportunity to excel while growing and nurturing our islands. It is a great investment!

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert "Kealoha" Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robyn smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 376 because it is a no brainer. Children should be eating fresh, organic, local food. And local farms are the best way to supply that, while also providing and opportunity for kids to go on field trips to see where their food comes from and what is involved in raising fresh local food. Aloha. Robyn Smith

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sallyjane Bodnar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon willeford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: When I was teaching ~ the 'Garden' was a favorite place. It helps children connect with the earth and Nature. It is therapeutic for many! Please support this bill. Mahalo

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: STEM education roots more readily, and deeply, when action-learning methods are employed. Farm to School science, technology, engineering, math, nutrition and sustainable living education is CRITICAL for preparing the next generation of citizens. PLEASE support this plan to improve access to fresh food in our schools and to foster school garden and farm connections to education. Our young students LOVE to learn about nature and food - let's also give them the choice to EAT FRESH and EAT LOCAL while applying STEM concepts.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Sean Payne Hills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is one of the most important bills for the keiki! Give them well-grown, clean and local food. Let them learn where their food comes from and it won't be coming from the barges! It'll be fresh and from home, as it should be!!

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Usha Kotner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB627, which establishes a farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education is an essential next step in realizing for our state the profound benefits of farm to school in the areas of agriculture, education, health, and the economy. Food sustainability is a top priority for our state, and a farm to school program will create a steady demand for locally grown food. Because many school meals are federally reimbursed, this will create a steady flow of resources into our communities. In addition, the positive health impacts for our children of eating fresh food are well documented. By feeding our children fresh, local food, we instill a life-long habit of health.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Loh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yoav	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support this

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