

# **SB376**

## **RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Establishes the Hawaii farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions. Appropriates funds.**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION**

February 17, 2015  
2:46 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

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

Chairpersons Ruderman and Taniguchi and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 376. 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.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/17/2015  
**Time:** 02:46 PM  
**Location:** 414  
**Committee:** Senate Agriculture

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0376 RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Hawaii farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the intent of SB 0376, appropriating general funds to establish a full-time equivalent farm to school coordinator for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, so long as it does not adversely impact the identified executive budget priorities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**SB376**  
**RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Education

February 17, 2015

2:46 p.m.

Room 414

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

SB376 takes an integrated approach to simultaneously improve the health of Hawai'i's students and their families, as well as increase support for 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 provide significant support for Hawai'i's local agricultural economy, by ensuring that more locally-grown agricultural products are purchased by and served in schools. The increased support for local agriculture will in turn support the state's food self-sufficiency goals. 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 important measure.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB376 on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, February 09, 2015 7:13:06 PM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kellen Smith	University of Hawaii PALS Program	Support	No

Comments:

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# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

And

Senate Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 2:46 pm

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 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, Vice Chairs Riviere and Harimoto, and members of the committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, of SB 376, which establishes the Hawaii 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, 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.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

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Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

February 13, 2015

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
SB 376, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM  
Committee on Agriculture  
Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015  
2:46 p.m.  
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Ruderman, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, which establishes a Hawai'i farm to school program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

Establishing a farm to school program in the State of Hawai'i will increase educational opportunities for our *keiki* and provide the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. By educating and engaging our students through farm to school activities at an early age, it will encourage them to live healthier lifestyles. This may reduce ones susceptibility to chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. Furthermore, SB 376 is in line with the State's objective to encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i grown produce.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Joint Committee to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:cy

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
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February 12, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**SB 376, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**Senate Committee on Agriculture and**  
**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2015**  
**2:46 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 414**

Dear Chair Ruderman, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, Relating to a Farm to School Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as a Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

SB 376 establishes the Hawaii farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture, and provides funding for two (2) farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the State's farm to school program. The purpose of the farm to school program is 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. A successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and most importantly, improve academic achievement and student behavior. SB 376 would also fund two farm to school coordinator positions (one in the Department of Agriculture, and one in the Department of Education) who would collaborate with each other and appropriate stakeholders to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in Hawaii's schools.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Education to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK  
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AO:lc



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 17, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 376  
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 414  
2:46 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committees:

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**, 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.



SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE and EDUCATION  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 – 2:46 PM – Room 414

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

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, Vice Chairs Riviere and Harimoto and Members of the Committees:

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 376**, 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask for your support of SB 376.

Lori Lum  
808-544-8343  
[llum@wik.com](mailto: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

# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui



Coordinated through The Kohala Center

## TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 17, 2015, 2:46 p.m.

### 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*

### Mauī & Lana'i

Lehn Huff  
*Mauī & 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: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Ruderman, Chair Kidani, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports SB376**, 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 grassroots network 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.

### Benefits of Farm to School

When improvements in school food are combined with increased educational opportunities for students in nutrition and agriculture (e.g., school gardens), 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>)

Investment in the creation of a state-level farm to school program for Hawai'i 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**.

### Addressing Health & Health Costs in Hawai'i

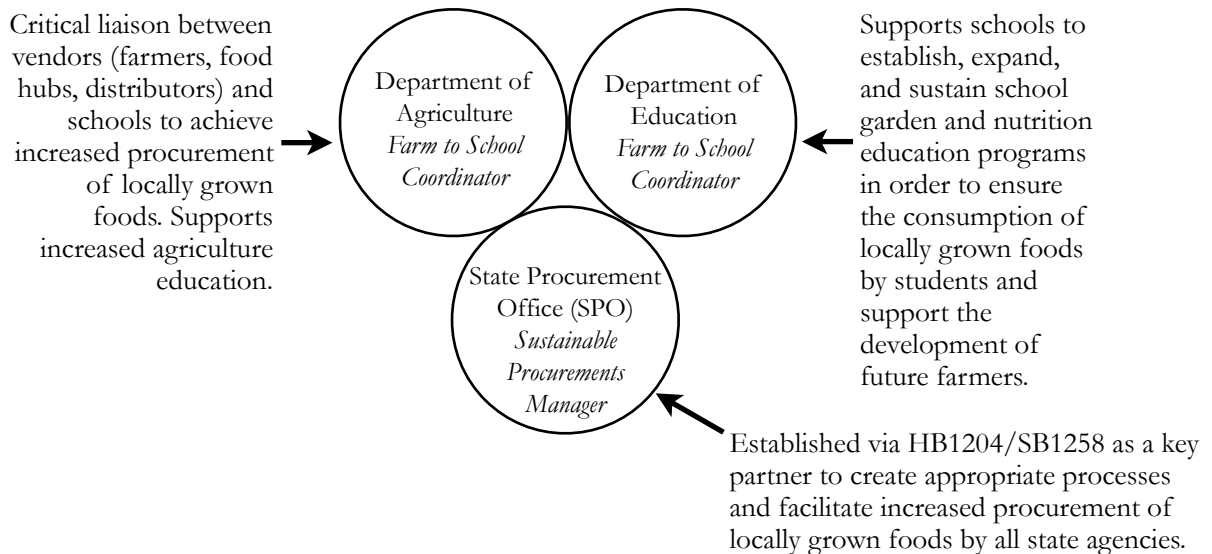
Farm to school has the potential to impact the following sobering statistics regarding the health of Hawai'i's citizens and the associated costs to our economy:

- **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>)

Nineteen other states have already established state-level farm to school coordinators in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems. In Hawai'i, the state-level farm to school coordinators would **plan and work strategically together to achieve a robust and successful farm to school program for Hawai'i** as follows:



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](mailto:schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org)  
[www.hawaiiischoolgardenhui.org](http://www.hawaiiischoolgardenhui.org)

# kōkua hawai'i foundation



February 10, 2015

Aloha Senators,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY** supports SB376, 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!**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,  
Co-Founder, President

Kim Johnson,  
Co-Founder, Executive Director

Natalie McKinney,  
Director of Program Development

[www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org](http://www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org)

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • [info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org](mailto: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:  
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Twitter  
[@FarmtoSchool](https://twitter.com/FarmtoSchool)

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

**F**arm 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2-5</sup> 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.<sup>6-31</sup>
- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods and seasonality (in early childhood and K-12 settings).<sup>7,20-22,26,31-33</sup>
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).<sup>7,20-22,30-33</sup>
- 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.<sup>34-35</sup>

## 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.<sup>8-9,20-21,23-25,36</sup>
- 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.<sup>8-9,21,23-25,36,37</sup>
- 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.<sup>7,22,38</sup>

## 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.<sup>7-9,20,22-23,25,36-37,39</sup>

- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales for individual farmers.<sup>7,9,20,22-23,36,39</sup>
- 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.<sup>36-37</sup>



## Community and Economy

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

## Teachers






















- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum.<sup>7,20-22,30</sup>

## 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.<sup>7,20,22,27,33</sup>
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets in the area.<sup>33</sup>
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.<sup>33</sup>

# 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
<b>Students</b>		
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 
<b>Schools</b>		
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 
<b>Farmers</b>		
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development 
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development 
<b>Community</b>		
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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.Feb. 11

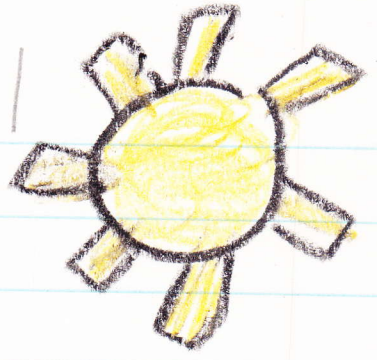
Dear Lawmaker,

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  
Sunset 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 grow! 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.



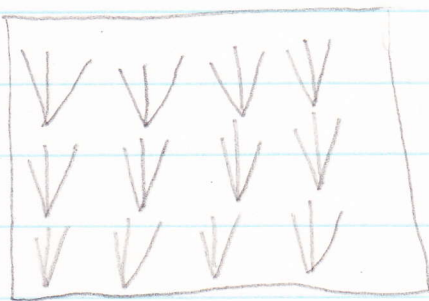
Bao Jones  
Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elem.

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.

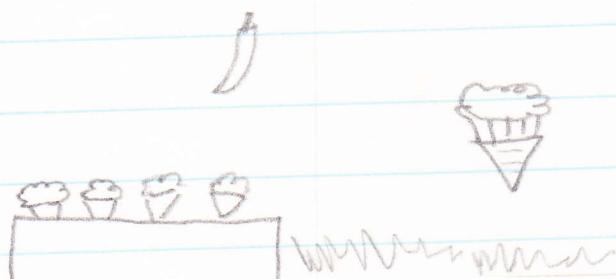
Aloha,  
Ellery Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elementary  
School

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.

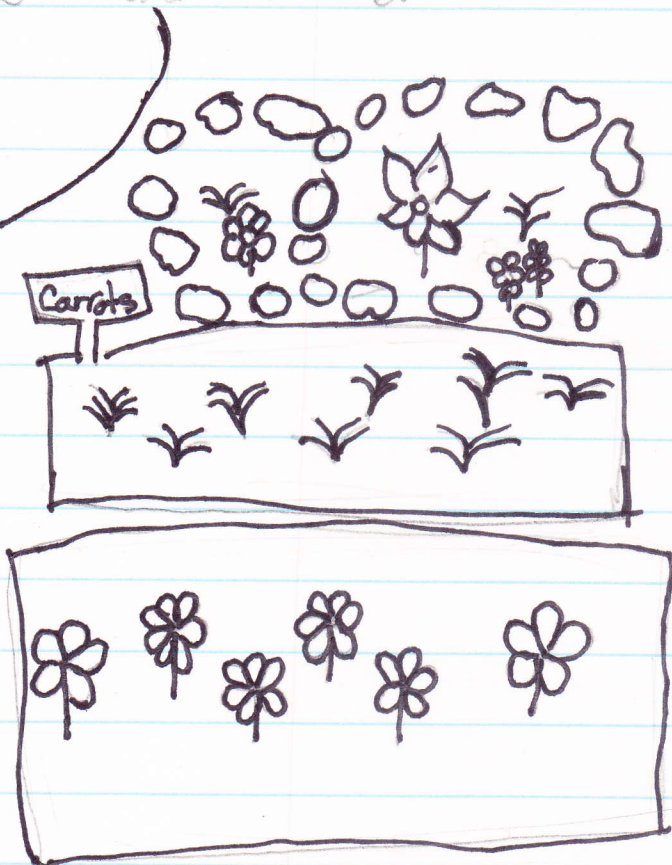
Maya  
3 grade  
Sunset Beach  
Elementary School



Feb. 11

Dear Lawmakers,

I support SB376 and HB627 to create FARMIS 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

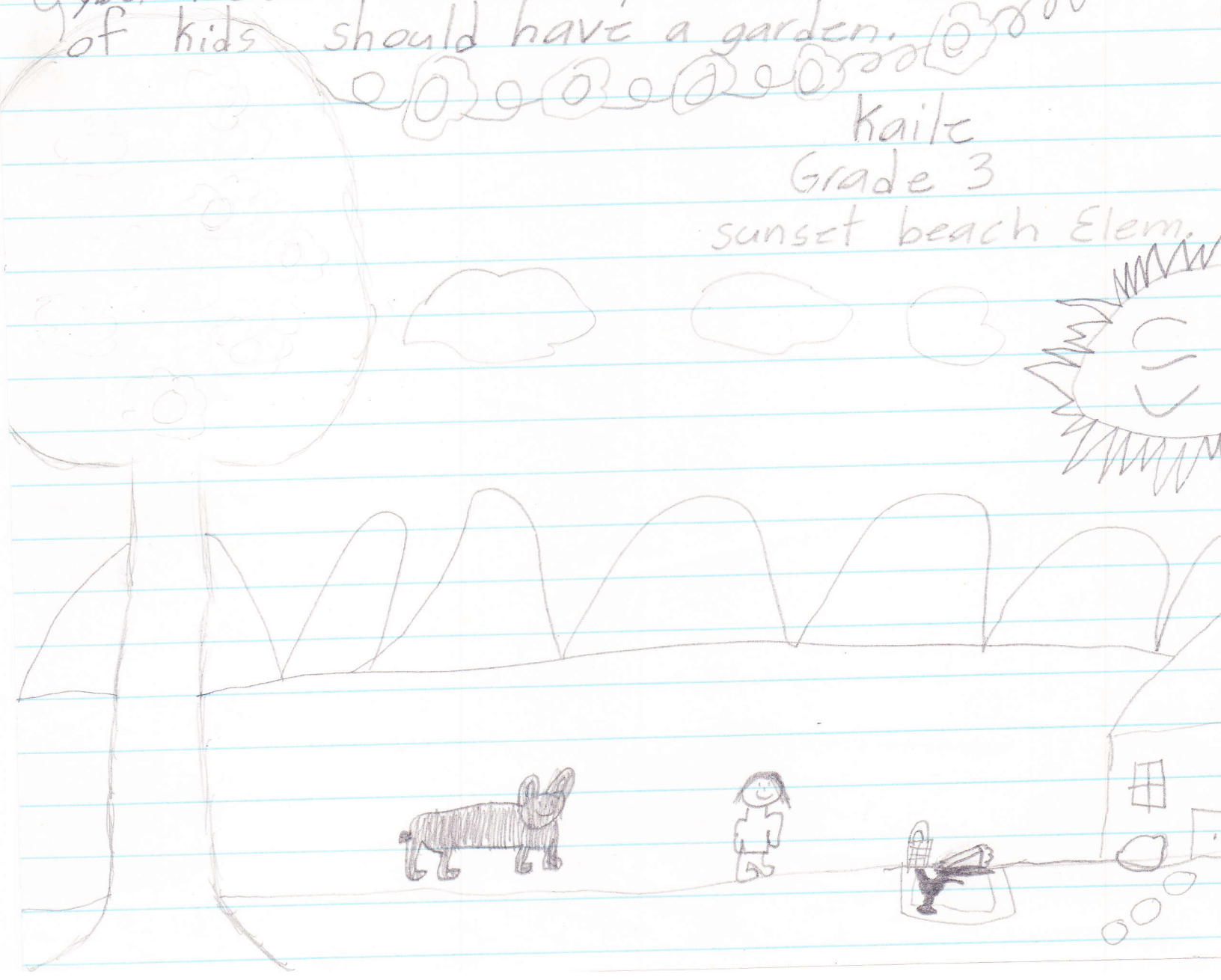
Feb. 11

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.



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**Cc:** [susie@kuaokala.org](mailto:susie@kuaokala.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB376 on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 10:16:59 AM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susie Osborne	Kua o ka La Charter School	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important bill.

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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**Cc:** [mr.caleb.crew@gmail.com](mailto:mr.caleb.crew@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB376 on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2015 1:49:13 PM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caleb Stroud	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an educator and parent in Hawaii, I understand the value of helping our keiki become global citizens with local roots. To any people group, their land is more than a natural resource to be exploited, it is stability, it is home, it is life. Helping our children make a direct connection with the land, and to participate in the production of plants that can be used for food, medicines, and handicrafts is a valuable venture to undertake. Please vote in favor of SB 376 so that the next generation can have more opportunity to get back to the land, support local growers, and become better able to make decisions that promote the health of the land and her people. ~ Mahalo

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB376 on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 14, 2015 9:29:37 PM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
chris kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha committee members, Please support this basic measure which would get children in touch with the aina and how food is produced. We are at a critical time where we need to grow young and new farmers to feed our people. This early introduction is necessary and may be the start and inspiration. Mahalo.

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**Cc:** [333cory@gmail.com](mailto:333cory@gmail.com)  
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**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:50:12 PM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha legislators, Please support this bill to help increase our food self-sufficiency. Mahalo! Cory Harden, Hilo

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Testimony on SB376  
Dan Purcell, member of the public

I will provide comments via videoconference on SB376.

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To: [AGL Testimony](#)  
Cc: [d\\_kuuiipo@hotmail.com](mailto:d_kuuiipo@hotmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM  
Date: Saturday, February 14, 2015 6:18:58 PM

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Aloha! I am in strong support of SB 376. As a teacher for 18 years in the public school system, I have seen the decline in nutrition & freshness in the foods that are being served to our young keiki. Many dishes are highly processed, fat-laden & unappetizing. We teach our students to eat a rainbow and emphasize the importance of choosing fresh over processed food. Yet when they grab their lunch in the cafeteria, it is very contradictory. Fruit cups & fruit juices are taking the place of fresh fruits. Unidentifiable meats are placed between bread or covered in gravy. The colors seen most often on these plates are predominantly brown & white - having little to no nutritional value. When we wanted to serve snacks at our afterschool tutoring program, we needed to follow USDA guidelines which promote prepackaged junk over fresh fruit & veggies. I do not understand how padding the pockets of these big companies can take precedence over the health & well-being of our children. Our school had a thriving garden five years ago under the stewardship of a very capable & passionate teacher. Our students got involved with every aspect of the garden & especially enjoyed harvesting & tasting the fruits of their labor. Many of our local keiki were exposed to not only our traditional Hawaiian plant staples, but had the opportunity to try a variety of vegetables as well. It was thrilling to see the kids take ownership & be open to eating more nutritiously. When this same teacher tried to encourage simple changes in the school menu (adding freshly grown produce from our local garden) she was met with opposition. As an adult ordering in a restaurant, I would definitely choose fresh over canned or frozen. I believe our children's meals should be prepared with that same mentality. Good nutritious food feeds the mind & fuels the body. It's as simple as that. All schools should have gardens to practice what we preach, to instill the value of nutritious eating at a young age & to promote healthy eating within the school community. Let's be the change that can make a difference in the lives of our future leaders. Let's choose health over wealth! Support SB 376!!

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## In support of SB376

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB376. Through my work as program coordinator for The Hawaii Island School Garden Network, a program of The Kohala Center, I have seen the positive impact created from Farm to School practices on Hawaii Island. Students who are engaged in garden based learning and food systems education are more likely to eat more vegetables, be healthier as adults and have a greater awareness of supporting local agriculture. To support my testimony, here are some background information and statistics from USDA Regional Director Kristie Hubbard:

### What is farm to school?

\* The term 'farm to school' is generally understood to include efforts to bring local or regional foods into the school cafeteria and teach kids where their food comes from.

\* Bringing more locally sourced, fresh fruits and vegetables into school cafeterias is a seminal activity of many farm to school efforts; procuring locally sourced, minimally processed main meal items so that the entire school meal is representative of regional options is also a focus of many farm to school programs. The most successful farm to school programs buy local meats, dairy, grains, and eggs as well as local fruits and vegetables.

\* USDA considers farm to school to be inclusive of many types of producers, such as farmers, ranchers, and fishermen, as well as many types of food businesses, including food processors, manufacturers, distributors and other value-added operations.

\* In addition to procurement activities, food, agriculture and nutrition-based educational efforts that span a host of hands-on experiential activities, such as school gardens, field trips to local farms, and cooking classes, are also included in the concept of farm to school.

What are the benefits of farm to school efforts?

- \* Farm to school programs are believed to:
  - o strengthen children's and communities' knowledge about, and attitudes toward, agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment;
  - o increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables;
  - o increase market opportunities for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers, and
  - o support economic development across numerous sectors

### FARM TO SCHOOL HEALTH BENEFITS

o NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF CHILDREN ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE. TOO FEW ARE GETTING THE RECOMMENDED DAILY SERVINGS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- \* FARM TO SCHOOL IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING HEALTH BENEFITS
  - \* WILLINGNESS TO TRY NEW FOODS
  - \* INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (.99 - 1.3 SERVINGS/DAILY)
  - \* IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS REGARDING GARDENING, AGRICULTURE, AND HEALTHY EATING

### FARM TO SCHOOL ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- \* PROVIDE NEW AND/OR DIVERSIFIED MARKETS.
- \* AVERAGE 5% INCREASE IN INCOME FROM FARM TO SCHOOL SALES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS.
- \* ADVANCED CONTRACTS INCREASINGLY POPULAR.
- \* POSITIVE MULTIPLIER EFFECT (UP TO \$2.16 IN LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY)

### INVESTMENTS IN FARMERS, RANCHERS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES

An investment in the health of America's students through Farm to School is also an investment in the farmers and ranchers who grow the food and an investment in the health of local economies.

o The 2012 Census of Agriculture results indicate that nearly 150,000 farmers and ranchers nationwide are selling their products directly to consumers, and 50,000 are selling to local retailers-a more than \$7 billion industry, according to industry estimates.

o Since 2009, USDA has funded nearly 3,000 local food projects, including nearly 450 projects

totaling \$27 million to support direct marketing of local food to consumers.

- o The new Farm Bill tripled funding for marketing and promotion of local food, and continues the 5% set aside of B&I program loan guarantees for projects that focus on local food businesses.

- o A February 2014 Penn State Study noted that direct local sales have a direct and significant effect on farm income. For instance, in New England, a \$1 increase from the 2002 level of direct farm sales was associated with a \$5 increase in total farm sales. That same \$1 increase was associated with a \$9 increase in overall farm sales in DE, MD, NJ, NY & PA.

#### NATIONAL TRENDS: ACCORDING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL CENSUS

- \* Healthy habits are taking root all across the country. At the national level, 44% of the school districts that responded to the Census are operating farm to school programs as of the 2012-2013 school year and another 13% have plans to start in the future. Farm to school programs exist in every state in the country.

- \* An investment in the health of America's students through farm to school programming is also an investment in the health of local economies. In school year 2011-2012, schools purchased over \$386 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food processors and manufacturers. 56 percent of school districts report that they will buy even more local foods in future school years.

- \* Local foods span the school meal tray; farm to school programs present economic opportunities for all of agriculture. Fruits, vegetables and milk top the list of foods schools are most likely to buy locally. In the future, they'd like to buy more plant-based proteins, grains, meats, poultry and eggs from local suppliers.

- \* Farm to school programs, along with nutritious school breakfasts, lunches and snacks, help healthy habits take root. Thanks to changes made to the school meal program in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), students across the country are already getting more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy at school. Farm to school programs further support the work of parents, teachers, school nutrition professionals and communities to make the healthy choice the easy choice for America's children. Research shows that children in schools with farm to school programs eat more fruits and vegetables and are more willing to try new, healthy foods-positive steps in the right direction in the fight against childhood obesity.

- \* Millions of children are being exposed to lessons about healthy eating and learning where food comes from. With 44% of school districts surveyed actively engaged in farm to school programming, USDA estimates that 4,322 school districts representing 40,328 schools serving over 23 million children are buying local products and teaching children where food comes from.

-USDA Regional Director Kristie Hubbard

Mahalo nui loa,  
Donna Mitts  
Program Coordinator  
Hawaii Island School Garden Network  
Pa'auilo, Hawaii

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erin ODonnell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an interested citizen who lives in Waimea, on the moku o Keawe, a fertile land with many farms and farmers who provide healthy foods to local markets and to hotels, wouldn't we want them to provide that to our most precious asset, our future, our keiki. I support a farm to school program to nourish our keiki with locally grown food instead of shipping in canned foods which have less nutrients and do not support our local economy and farmers. Mahalo!

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
fawne frailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Haawinamaikalani Wise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jameil saez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have seen first hand how gardening programs benefit the students and empowered them to continue a career in agriculture, a field that while its vital to society it doesn't always get the attention needed. Kids are also staying healthier by being active in the garden. Also its important for people to value where our food comes from and understand it doesn't come from the supermarket or the mainland.

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB376 Relating to a Farm-to-School Program Aloha, Esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Education I am writing to indicate my STRONG SUPPORT for SB376. Hawai'i once had one of the most sophisticated agricultural systems in the world, prior to western contact. After nearly two centuries of corporate agriculture, the citizens of Hawai'i have become so disconnected from the land and nearly completely dependent on industrially farmed, processed and/or imported foodstuffs from outside this state. Adults, and more importantly, youth have little knowledge of how their food comes to them, what's in it, what kinds of effects the process had on the environment, workers, and themselves and perhaps even less motivation to learn these things and become active participants in improving all of these. A Farm-to-School program can benefit a local diversified agriculture economy, help improve food self-sufficiency for not only the schools, but the state, educate and encourage youth to understand and support diversified local agricultural enterprises, as well as improve their health indicators. I respectfully request the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Education support this bill, and vote to pass SB376. Aloha pumehana, K. Ho

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kellen Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Moritz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lehua Nip	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support if this bill. I believe that a child should have the right to eat healthy foods that are produced locally. Farm to School projects will improve the health of the children and create jobs for locals as well.

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Testimony: Hearing on SB 376  
Farm to School  
Tuesday, February 17 at 2:45 p.m.  
Room 414  
Joint Committee AGL/EDU

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

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Kidani and Members of the Committees;

Mahalo for this unique opportunity for outer island people to testify in person, saving each of us 100s of dollars and a whole day of work!

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, one of the "big ideas" of both the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

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 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, 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, 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers work over 1,000 hours per week 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Redfeather". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "R".

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Olin Lagon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha e Lawmakers Ruderman, Chun Oakland, Gabbard, Green, Harimoto, Ihara, Keith-aganan, Shimabukuro, Espero, Slom, L. Thielen, Please support our local farmers and our keiki by funding important positions to help integrate more Farm to School programs. If we are serious about integrating more local ag into our schools and getting our keiki inspired, we need to support position to properly craft these programs. Mahalo, Olin

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February 13, 2015

RE: SB 376 - RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Dear Senators Ruderman, Chun-Oakland, Gabbard, Green, Harimoto, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, and Shimabukuro,

I am in support of SB 376 which would establish the Hawaii farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions.

As an avid gardener and a mother of five children, I understand the health benefits and importance of eating local foods and supporting our local farmers.

Sincerely,

Paahana Kincaid

paahana@hawaii.edu

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii farm to school programs used to be found in many of our schools. Somewhere along the line the system forgot about what that provided to our keiki, far beyond the basics of agriculture. The growth of the School Gardens program under the Kohala Center has shown immense growth in the last few years. It's success is built on the approach of bringing the growing of food in to the school and reconnecting students to the understanding of where food comes from and the excitement and pride to be experienced from raising food from seed to harvest to table, and an appreciation for local farmers. I support SB376. I also urge legislators to support complimentary measures to allow more locally-grown produce in our school cafeterias as well. When students can both grow their own food and contribute to the meals served at the school, and when they know the farmers who are providing food to the school, we create long term connections between communities and family farms. Mahalo.

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

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Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruth Holmberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tasia yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: These positions are necessary for creating a comprehensive farm to school curriculum, which will not only bolster our local economy and food system but will also provide more opportunities for our keiki to learn and apply their knowledge to the real world- the natural world, the outdoor classroom. There are countless studies pointing to `aina-based curriculum for fostering students' open-mindedness to trying and eating more whole, fresh local produce into their diets. All subjects (math, science, history, geography, Hawaiian culture, English, etc) find application and relevance in the garden. Please consider supporting the health of our children- physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually- through this bill.

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiana Kamen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou! Mahalo nui loa for your time and dedication to the Farm to School bill. I apologize that I am out of the country and cannot send an attachment for my testimony and that it is pasted here in the comments section. I am submitting testimony to support SB 376. I am from Kaua'i. I grew up like all of us Hawaii kids caught up in a whirlwind of fast foods and what was brought in from the barge. Like many kids today, I was always sick with stomach aches, too sick to be in the classroom and always missing lessons because I was stuck in the nurses room. We had spam eating contests at school and our favorite hang out was Burger King. We didn't know any better, and our parents, school lunch and classroom teachers didn't teach us otherwise. I was an athlete and tried to eat as healthy food as possible, but it was really hard in school with the food served and peer pressure. Many of my friends became anorexic, bulimic and obese by 5th grade. Food was affecting our ability to learn and our self esteem. The boys called the bigger girls white and brown cow, white if they were haole and brown if they were dark skinned. It's time for a paradigm shift and to revive our farm to school culture in Hawaii. We need to serve locally grown, healthier foods in our school if we want to keep our children healthy, with high self esteem, and ready to learn. We need to grow gardens at schools and use them to teach academics to reinforce school lessons as well as inspire a new generation of farmers for Hawaii. I moved home from college in 2009 to start the Kauai Farm to School and School Garden Network. The response to beginning this network was incredible and 89% of Kauai's schools teachers, parents and principals were all on board. After two years of struggling to figure out how to get healthier and locally grown foods into our cafeterias, many schools became discouraged and so did I. I switched my efforts to Farm to Preschool, where we could achieve what wasn't limited by the K-12 system. Through my 5 years of experience, I know that the people of Hawaii want our schools to teach using gardens and serve locally grown, fresh foods in the cafeterias. I also know that the process of doing so is extremely difficult. We have had some successes due to efforts made by our island school garden networks, support organizations and champion individuals. It's time that our state steps up to the plate and funds Farm to School positions. We need staff in both the Department of Agriculture and Education to make this possible. We need these positions to make Farm to School possible for all children in Hawaii. Without these positions and without passing this bill, we will continue to see Hawaii's children

obese, anorexic, bulimic, malnourished, with low self esteem, uninterested in farming and without the knowledge of how to nourish themselves and our community. Mahalo for your consideration to pass this bill. You have the power to improve the health of all of Hawaii's children with this bill. Please kokua... let's plant a new seed for children's health in Hawaii. Mahalo, Tiana Kamen Farm to Keiki, Director

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**SB376**

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for AGL/EDU on Feb 17, 2015 14:46PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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