

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

April 16, 2015  
10:00 A.M.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 109 SD 1

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 109, SD 1 that designates the month of October of each year as "Farm to School Month" in Hawaii to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii's schools. The Department supports this measure.

The Department believes in the importance of providing Hawaii's youth with the education and exposure to become agriculturally literate. Creating a connection between food and the farm from which it came is vital for students to appreciate the importance of agriculture within their own lives. Furthermore, experiences across the nation have shown that farm to school initiatives also result in increased student health and nutrition. By mirroring the national designation of "Farm to School Month" by the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii is expressing its support of greater student health and increased agricultural literacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 10:00 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

### SCR 109 SD1 – DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 109 SD1, which designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

This positive action to promote public awareness of the Farm to School effort is intended to connect schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals; improving nutrition and lowering childhood obesity; providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities; and supporting our local farmers. These objectives coincide with those of the agriculture, health and nutrition programs developed and implemented by College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for the benefit of the agricultural community and the children of Hawai'i and we are pleased to lend our support to this initiative.

Supportive research and extension efforts by CTAHR include the many projects addressing children's health and nutrition under the umbrella of our Nutrition Education for Wellness (NEW) program; and the Children's Healthy Living Program (CHL), a \$25 million, competitive grant-funded effort to decrease childhood obesity rates through regionally and culturally appropriate nutritional and physical activity programs throughout Hawai'i and the American Pacific.

These objectives are also very much in line with agricultural education efforts at the Hilo and West Hawai'i campuses of the University of Hawai'i, Maui College, and the Community College campuses.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our support for SCR 109 SD1, and for designation of "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

April 16, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 109 SD 1  
DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL  
MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL  
INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS

Room 312  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

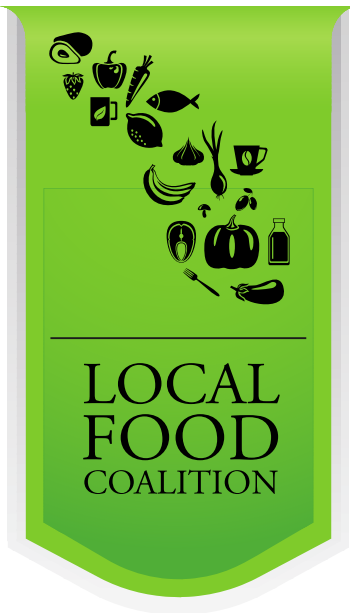
**Hawaii Farm Bureau is in strong support** of designating October as "Farm to School Month in Hawaii"

HFB 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.

HFB supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School 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.

We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. This initiative is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to having well informed consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
APRIL 16, 2015 – 10:00 AM – Room 312

**RE: SCR 109 SD1 – Designating the Month of October of Each Year as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii to Strengthen and Support Farm to School Initiatives in Hawaii’s Schools – In Support**

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support SCR 109 SD1.**

Farm to school month is an opportunity to raise awareness within schools and the broader community about farm to school and its many benefits.

Activities that may take place include farmers visiting classrooms, farm field trips for students and school events around healthy eating and local agriculture.

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.

We ask for your favorable consideration of this resolution. Thank you.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 8:55 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR109 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM

**SCR109**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network and FoodCorps Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the 68 schools and 7,000 students that are part of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network, and our 12 Partner FoodCorps Hawai'i Public Schools across the State we strongly support designating October as the Hawai'i Farm to School Month. This would coincide with National Farm to School recognition, and national alignment. Farm to School grows knowledge, access, and engagement between Hawaii's schools and farmers, boosting the agricultural economy and supporting school gardens and school farms, as well as farm field trips and farm to classroom trips.

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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To: The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair, Committee on Agriculture  
The Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture  
Members, House Committee on Agriculture

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: April 15, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Agriculture; Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Rm 312

Re: **Support for SCR 109, SD 1, Designating October of Each Year as “Farm to School Month”**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of SCR 109, SD 1**, which designates the month of October of each year as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawaii’s schools.

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.

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. Farm to school initiatives have been known to connect schools and local farms with the objective of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias. This allows for improvement on student nutrition and farm to school initiatives are the driving force behind food system change in Hawaii.

The designation of the month of October of each year as “Farm to School Month” coincides with the United States House of Representatives’ resolution passed in 2010 designating October as “Farm to School Month” that year. This designation will also empower children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening our local economy and contributing to the community and help to promote farm to school activities.

For these reasons, The Hawaii Public Health Institute respectfully ask you to pass SCR 109, SD 1, and feels this will help to promote health within the school system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director

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

[hiphi.org](http://hiphi.org)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 10:28 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SCR109 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM\*

**SCR109**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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## TESTIMONY

House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

April 16, 2015 – 10:00 AM – Conference Room 312

RE: SCR 109 – Designating the Month of October of Each Year as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii to Strengthen and Support Farm to School Initiatives in Hawaii’s Schools – In Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SCR 109 supporting the month of October as “Farm to School Month” in Hawaii’s educational system. “Farm to School” is a remarkable initiative that not only supports local agriculture but also the health of our youth. The “Farm to School” initiative concentrates on providing schools with locally grown produce and food products and “Farm to School Month” takes this initiative further by educating students on the importance of local agriculture. “Farm to School Month” would be a time to celebrate Hawaii’s local farmers and food producers while also educating our children on where their food comes from. “Farm to School Month” will highlight the importance of local sustainable agriculture as a means of encouraging food sovereignty and pride in Hawaii’s agricultural practices. Educating our youth on where their food comes from is particularly crucial in Hawaii because our State is almost completely dependent on food that is shipped in. Hawaii has such a rich and culturally embedded agricultural history, therefore, I cannot imagine a community more fit to carry out this initiative. Thank you for your time and I ask for your favorable consideration of this initiative.

Jordan Everett

University of Hawaii

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

MSW student

(808) 344-3570

[jordaneverett@gmail.com](mailto:jordaneverett@gmail.com)

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 9:07 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SCR109 on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM\*

**SCR109**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 16, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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TO: Rep. Clift Tsuji  
House Committee on Agriculture

RE: SCR109 SDI - DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS  
“FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH” IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO  
SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII’S SCHOOLS.

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2015  
TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 312

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Aloha mai kākou and mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 109 that designates the month of October of each year as “Farms to School Month” in Hawai‘i to strengthen and support farm to school initiatives in Hawai‘is schools. My name is Christopher Pokipala from Wai‘anae and I support this measure.

As a Native Hawaiian community member, I highly support the initiative of strengthening our keiki’s relationship with the ‘āina. As Hawai‘i continues to be develop, especially here on O‘ahu, we are starting to see more agriculture land to be rezoned to residential and multi-housing lands, such as the Ho‘opili project here on West O‘ahu. This is due to lack of interest and educating our keiki the importance of agriculture and self-sustainability. As our keiki are the future of Hawai‘i, I see this initiative as a great opportunity for Hawai‘i to become more self-sustainable my educating and establishing farming-career interest to our keiki.

The designation of the month of October as “Farm to School Month” in Hawai‘i would increase awareness of self-sustainability and the value of aloha ‘āina to not only our children, but also with families, staff and community members. This initiative would provide strong partnerships with schools and local farmers and also inform students and their families to make healthier food choices while strengthening the local economy by supporting local farmers.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Mahalo again for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Christopher J. Pokipala  
cp2@hawaii.edu

**LATE**

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 109 SD

Thursday, April 16, 2015

10:00 AM, Rm. 312

Dear Chair Tsuji, Chair Luke, and members of the committees,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 109 SD, Designating the Month of October of Each Year As “Farm To School Month” In Hawai’i. I believe that future generations should learn about the importance of the land and how food is produced in Hawai’i. For most of us, we depend on going to big-name stores to buy our food and we do not think about where it came from. Also, when we buy our foods, we do not think about it being imported. Because of this, we forget about the significance of Hawai’i’s own agriculture. We overlook the fact that there are people in Hawai’i who farm and produce foods for a living, as well as how these locally produced foods can benefit people’s health. It should be time that children become more educated about where their food is coming from, make better choices of what they eat, and how they can continue to support and appreciate Hawai’i’s agriculture.

Gerald Blaise Corpuz

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

**LATE**

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

**Date:** 04/16/2015

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 312

**Committee:** House Agriculture

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 109, SD1 DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS.

**Purpose of Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports SCR 109, SD1, designating October as "Farm to School" month. The initiatives relating to agriculture and food recognizes and strengthen the connection between fresh produce, healthy choices, and long-term benefits for our students.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.