



SCR191 SD1/SR126 SD1
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH
A VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 8, 2015

9:00 a.m.

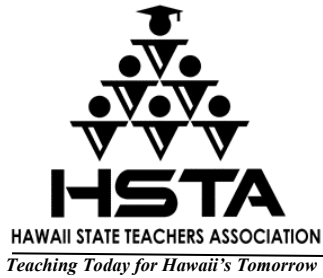
Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **COMMENT** for SCR191 SD1/SR126 SD1, which encourages the Department of Education to establish a voluntary farm-to-school program.

Farm-to-school programs take an integrated approach to simultaneously improve the health of students and their families, while also supporting the local food industry. The voluntary farm-to-school program promoted by this measure would give Department of Education Complex Areas the option to purchase locally grown food from food safety certified farms. The program also includes nutrition education and educational activities that emphasize food and farming. Such a voluntary farm-to-school program may be an important initial step towards achieving better health outcomes and greater food self-sufficiency in our islands.

In addition to supporting healthy choices and healthy children, this measure 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.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

RE: SCR 191 / SR 126 - VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ron Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports SCR 191/ SR 126** relating to encouraging the Department of Education to establish a voluntary farm to school program.

We are an island state with a long history of connection to the land that predates western contact. Throughout Hawai'i's history, the land and that which that land produces has been essential in the sustainability of our people and our economy.

In recent history, our "disconnect" with the land and our almost sole reliance on food from other shores has put our citizens in a precarious state. While we are all closely monitoring the labor dispute related to shipping to Hawai'i and its potential impact on our food supplies, we are also aware of the growing number of food recalls that are also occurring.

Support of this resolution will provide an opportunity for Hawai'i's citizens, including its youngest, school aged citizens to learn how to mitigate some of these challenges while learning how to reconnect with the land.

In providing opportunities for students to ultimately participate in Farm to School initiatives that may help them learn to grow fruits and vegetables in small areas, we help them understand that small steps can provide big outcomes.

In helping our teachers better learn how to support and teach towards sustainability, we make it more likely for Hawai'i to become more self-sustaining.

There is no end to the value of supporting FFA and 4-H programs. Many of our most notable leaders share the foundation that these programs have provided.

HSTA supports the concept of living and promoting sustainability. We know that the best leaders are our students. HSTA **supports SCR 191 SR 126**.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 2:04 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kendraroz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR191 on Apr 8, 2015 09:00AM*

SCR191

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 8, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendra Ozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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