

# SCR191 / SR126

Measure Title: ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Report Title: Farm to School Programs; Department of Education; Department of Agriculture

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/AGL, WAM

Introducer(s): DELA CRUZ, CHUN OAKLAND, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, Kahele, Shimabukuro, Wakai



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April 1, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 191/ SR 126  
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A  
VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 229  
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Kidani , Chair Ruderman, 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 SCR 191/ SR 126**, which encourages the Department of Education to establish a voluntary farm to school program.

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.



To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education  
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Education  
Members, Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Russell E Ruderman, Chair, Committee on Agriculture  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture  
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2015

Hrg: Senate Committees on Education and Agriculture; Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Rm 229

Re: **Support for SCR 191/SR 126, Relating to a Farm to School Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Concurrent Resolution 191 and Senate Resolution 126, encouraging the Department of Education to establish a voluntary farm to school program.

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

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

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

For these reasons, and the continued physical health of the keiki of Hawaii, the Hawaii Public Health Institute supports Senate Bill 376. 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

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
And  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

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

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

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

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**



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
APRIL 1, 2015 – 1:15 PM – Room 229

**RE: SCR 191/SR 126 – Encouraging the Department of Education to Establish a Voluntary Farm to School Program – Support the Intent**

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

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

**The Local Food Coalition supports the intent of SCR 191/SR 126.**

We support a farm to school program in Hawaii as it will allow students to gain access to healthy, local foods while supporting the agricultural economy. We defer to the Department of Education Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs office and the School Food Services Branch on the creation and implementation of the program.

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.

One of the priorities of The Local Food Coalition is the procurement of locally grown food for school meals and snacks. We are 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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

# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui



Coordinated through The Kohala Center

**TESTIMONY**  
Senate Committees on  
Education and Agriculture  
April 1, 2015, 1:15 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*

## Maui & Lana'i

Lehn Huff  
*Maui & Lana'i School Garden Network*

Nio Kindla & Kirk Surry  
*Grow Some Good*

## Hawai'i Island

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

## Statewide

Jennifer Ryan & Leimomi Dierks  
*Hawai'i Department of Health*

Dexter Kishida  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, SFSB*

Jennifer Dang  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, HCNP*

Lillian Coltin  
*Hawai'i Department of Education*

Andrea Snow  
*FoodCorps*

## Pacific Region

Dr. Koh Ming Wei  
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning*

## **SCR191/SR126: ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

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

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **supports the intent of SCR191 and SR126**, which encourage the Department of Education to establish a voluntary farm to school program.

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is fully in favor of determining a process by which schools may procure food for their meal and snack programs from as local an area as possible. We defer to the Hawai'i Department of Education's Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs (HCNP) office and the School Food Services Branch (SFSB) with regard to the legalities of what this resolution is proposing, in light of the federal and state procurement rules to which the Hawai'i Department of Education is subject.

It is important to keep in mind that successful farm to school programs must include a focus on both school food *and* education. The following key actions are recommended for our state in support of farm to school:

- Establish a state-level farm to school program and farm to school coordinator position in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture this year (SB376 SD2). The coordinator will be charged with strategic planning for farm to school in our state with a particular focus on increasing the supply, processing, distribution, and procurement of locally grown foods by *all* state agencies.
- Add flexibility to the state procurement code through the creation of a special innovative procurement process which will apply to fresh produce and meats for school meals and snacks (SB1228 SD2 HD2).
- Encourage increased local food procurement through a pilot program among Hawai'i's charter schools, who have much more flexibility to procure locally.
- Support the creation of farm to school and school garden coordinators at the complex level within the Hawai'i Department of Education in order to ensure the increased consumption of locally grown foods by Hawai'i's students through the implementation of PreK-12 agriculture and nutrition education programs.
- Support Hawai'i's small and local farms and farmers and the creation of farmer cooperatives and food hubs, and increased local food purchasing by distributors.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Coordinator  
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org  
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org



**SCR191/SR126**  
**ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH**  
**A VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

April 1, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **COMMENT** for SCR191/SR126, 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.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR191 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 8:36:57 PM

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**SCR191**

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for EDU/AGL on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: Getting started with a smaller Farm to School Pilot would be one way to begin for HiDOE. There are Charter Schools in the state, that already have school food service, including breakfast, lunch and the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. 1-2 of these could be supported and metrics and best practice/assessment gathered and shared. These schools have school garden and school farm programs, these also could be supported and metrics and best practices gathered. Since the Farm to School Program involves both increased local procurement AND school garden education, choosing a Charter School Pilot would be a small step that could gather needed data for the Department of Education.

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**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 8:44:57 AM

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**SCR191**

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for EDU/AGL on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<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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**Date:** Saturday, March 28, 2015 2:59:21 PM

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**SCR191**

Submitted on: 3/28/2015

Testimony for EDU/AGL on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: This Resolution is a great step toward 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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