

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

February 18, 2015  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

**HOUSE BILL NO. 627 HD 1  
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 627 HD 1. This bill establishes a farm to school program within the Department of Agriculture and creates a coordinator position within the Department and within the Department of Education. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities in the Administration's budget.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 13, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK**  
**COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**  
**HB 627, HD1, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 627, HD1, Relating to a Farm to School Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 627, HD1 establishes the Hawai'i 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. HB 627, HD1 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 Hawai'i's schools.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House 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, Kaua'i County Council

AB:lc

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

Council Services Division  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 13, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**HB 627, HD1, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 627, HD1, 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 for the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. By educating and by 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, HB 627, HD1 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 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,

KIPUKAI KUALI'I  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:mn

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 2:00 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

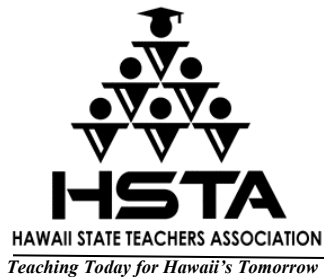
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 627 HD1 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 627 HD1, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and two farm to school coordinator positions within the Department of Agriculture and Department of Education.

Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education on the fiscal and management implications of HB 627 HD1, 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.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: H.B. 627, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO A FARM TO A SCHOOL PROGRAM

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, Honorable Vice Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **support of H.B. 627 HD1**.

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 these bills 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. As such, we are in **support of H.B. 627 H.D. 1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 309

**RE: HB 627 HD1 - Relating to a Farm to School Program – In Support**

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Members of the Committee:

**The Local Food Coalition strongly supports HB 627 HD1**, 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 HB 627 HD1.

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

House Committee on Education  
February 18, 2015, 2:00 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*

## HB627 HD1: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports HB627 HD1**, 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:

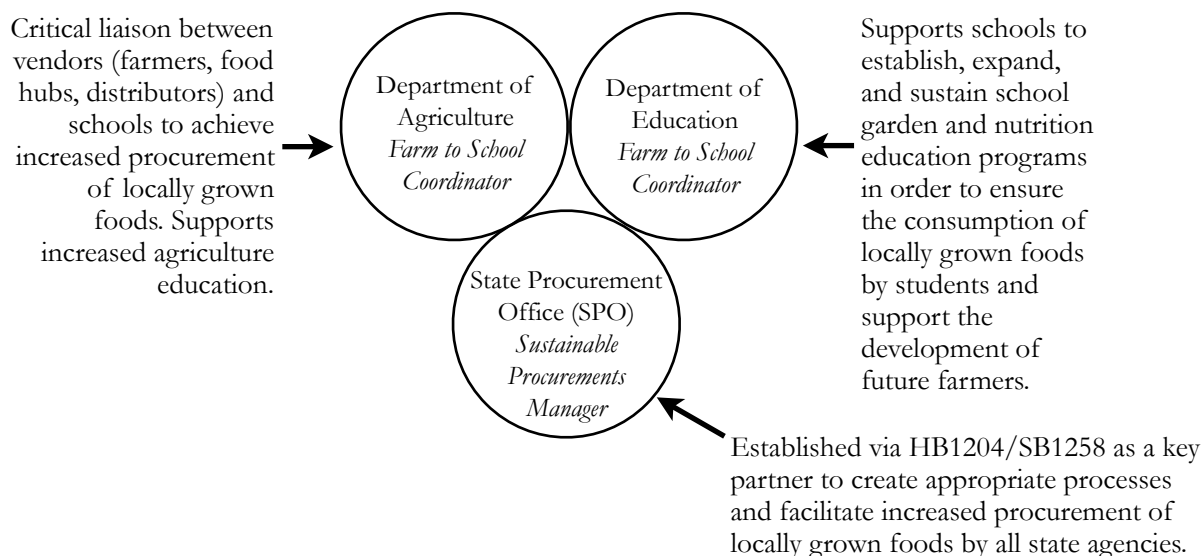
- **82% of adults in Hawai'i have at least one of the following chronic diseases or conditions:** heart disease, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, asthma, disability, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, or obesity.
- **Physical inactivity and poor 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*

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Coordinator

Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui  
[schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org](mailto:schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org)  
[www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org](http://www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org)



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)

February 18, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 627, HD 1  
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 309  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

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

**HFB supports HB 627 HD 1**, 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.



**HB627 HD1**  
**RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
House Committee on Education

February 18, 2015

2:00 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB627 HD1, 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.

HB627 HD1 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.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawai'i Green Growth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB376, which will establish the Hawai'i farm to school program and create two Farm to School Coordinator positions - one at Department of Agriculture and another at Department of Education. This will jointly increase institutional purchasing of local foods and to coordinate a framework that supports agricultural education from pre-school through college. Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy. SB376 will help advance action on the Aloha+ Challenge's local food production 2030 target: "At least double local food production - 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally." The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The Aloha+ Challenge was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.



To: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education  
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair, Committee on Education  
Members, House Committee on Education

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: February 17, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Education; Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Rm 309

Re: **Support for HB 627, HD1, Relating to a Farm to School Program**

---

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** House Bill 627, HD1, which will create a farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture and to provide funding for two farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the State's farm to school program.

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

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

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

HIPHI supports HB 627, HD1 which would use \$300,000.00 from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to establish two full-time farm to school coordinator positions in the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, for FY 2015-2016. The two coordinators will work in collaboration with one another, as well as other stakeholders, to address issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.



For the keiki of Hawaii, we respectfully ask you to pass HB 627, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director



Testimony: HB 627 HD1  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

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

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

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

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

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

As you know, it has long been a priority for Hawai'i to develop and grow food self-reliance. A Farm to School program, focused on increasing local institutional purchasing and creating a framework and support for school gardens and 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, there are over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers working over 1,000 hours per week, growing food, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,  
Nancy Redfeather  
The Kohala Center

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Towers	PAN	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Takumi and Committee Members, On behalf of PAN North America and our over 8,500 members in Hawai'i, we urge you to pass HB627 as ammended, that would create farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education. These efforts will increase the opportunities for healthy, local food in schools, and invest in Hawaiian farmers, jobs and the state's economy. Passing HB627 is an appropriate investment in the future of prosperous agriculture in Hawai'i. Sincerely, Paul Towers Organizing & Media Director Pesticide Action Network North America

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: It is my strong belief that programs like these are integral to our schools. At Mililani Mauka, my students and I created a Hawaiian garden of plants and vegetables, it enhanced all of our studies. Since retirement, another teacher has taken it over and the pride and learning that continues there is a tribute to why allowing programs such as farm to school to happen are important. WITH all of the standardized testing prep that has overrun our schools, it is exciting to see that someone has some common sense and continuing programs that actually benefit na keiki.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Aloha, I support this bill - as long as the intention, (growing and consuming healthy LOCAL FOOD) is upheld. I hope that biotech corporations will not use this as yet another propaganda tool to promote themselves to students. I hope this bill will pair small, sustainable local farms with the schools. Mahalo Deborah Mader Kihei, HI

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 18, 2015 at 2:00 pm  
by  
Douglas L. Vincent, Ph.D., P.A.S.

HB 870 – RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Personal Testimony in Favor of HB 627 HD1, with reservations

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the committee

My name is Douglas L. Vincent and I am a Professor and Animal Scientist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences. I am also a former Department Chair. I have been on the faculty at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for almost 30 years. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on HB 627 HD1. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

As the Department Chair of the Department of Human Nutrition Food and Animal Science, in 2010 I was the lead author of the University of Hawaii report on the feasibility of a Hawaii Farm-to-School Program (SCR121 SD1 HD1 Session 2009). At that time, the report recommended that establishing a state-wide Farm-to-School program was not feasible. Much has changed since then and through the efforts of many non-profit organizations such as Kokua Hawaii Foundation, Kohala Center and others, school gardens and farm to school programs have developed at individual schools. These programs do provide food and nutrition education to our keiki and have been successful on a limited basis at individual schools. While I believe it is a good idea and should be encouraged, I remain concerned that the issues brought forth in the 2010 feasibility study produced for the 2010 Hawaii State Legislature **still exist**. Issues such as equity in the provision of foodstuffs to schools, assurance of food safety regulations and remaining in compliance with USDA national school lunch program standards. While I support the concept enthusiastically, if the positions of farm to school coordinators are funded, they must tread carefully, tempering any unbridled enthusiasm, to ensure that the program does not increase the risk to our keiki and put the State in jeopardy with the potential loss of school lunch support provided by the USDA. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 627 HD1, with reservations.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Aloha, Please support Farm to School Programs. I am a Garden Teacher at Innovations Public Charter School in Kailua-Kona. I have seen our garden program increase kids' willingness to eat healthy foods while teaching them about the wonder of nature. Please support bringing farm fresh learning to more students in Hawaii.



**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: The support of farm to school programs is one of the most important movements of our time. We deserve to have food security and our kekie deserve to be connected to their food on behalf of their health and their families health!

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

.Feb. 11

Dear Lawmaker,

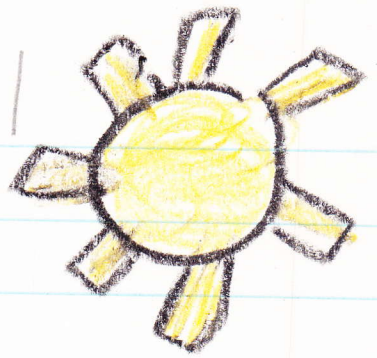
I support SB376 and HB627  
to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM.  
First of all, it's fun. Next, we get exercise.  
Also, you're taking care of the earth  
when you have a garden. Last, we get  
to take a break from sitting at our  
desks and learning about nature. So please  
listen to me and support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

Darios Davis  
Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elem.



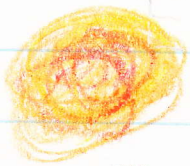


Feb. 11



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 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 grew! Last, if farmers keep on putting chemicals on plants, the wind or rain will sweep into the ocean and pollute the air, so please support SB 376 and HB 627 which are bills to create a FARM to SCHOOL PROGRAM.



Bao Jones  
Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elem.

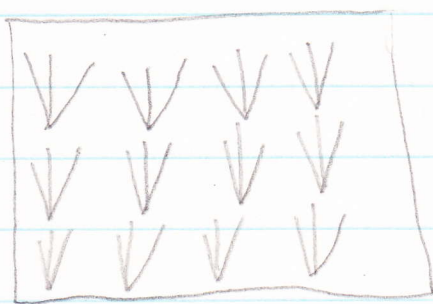


Fed. 11 2019

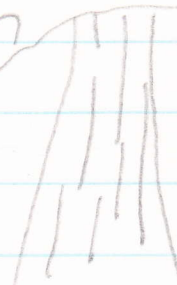
Dear Lawmaker,

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

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



Kate Shower  
Grade 3  
Sunset Beach  
Elem



Feb. 11

Dear Lawmaker,

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

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

Aloha,  
Ellery Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elementary  
School

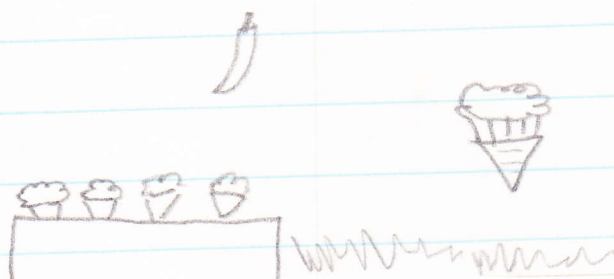


Feb. 11, 2015

Dear Lawmaker

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

Maya  
3 grade  
Sunset Beach  
Elementary School



Feb. 11

Dear Lawmakers,

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



Cream  
Grade 3  
Sunset Beach Elem. School



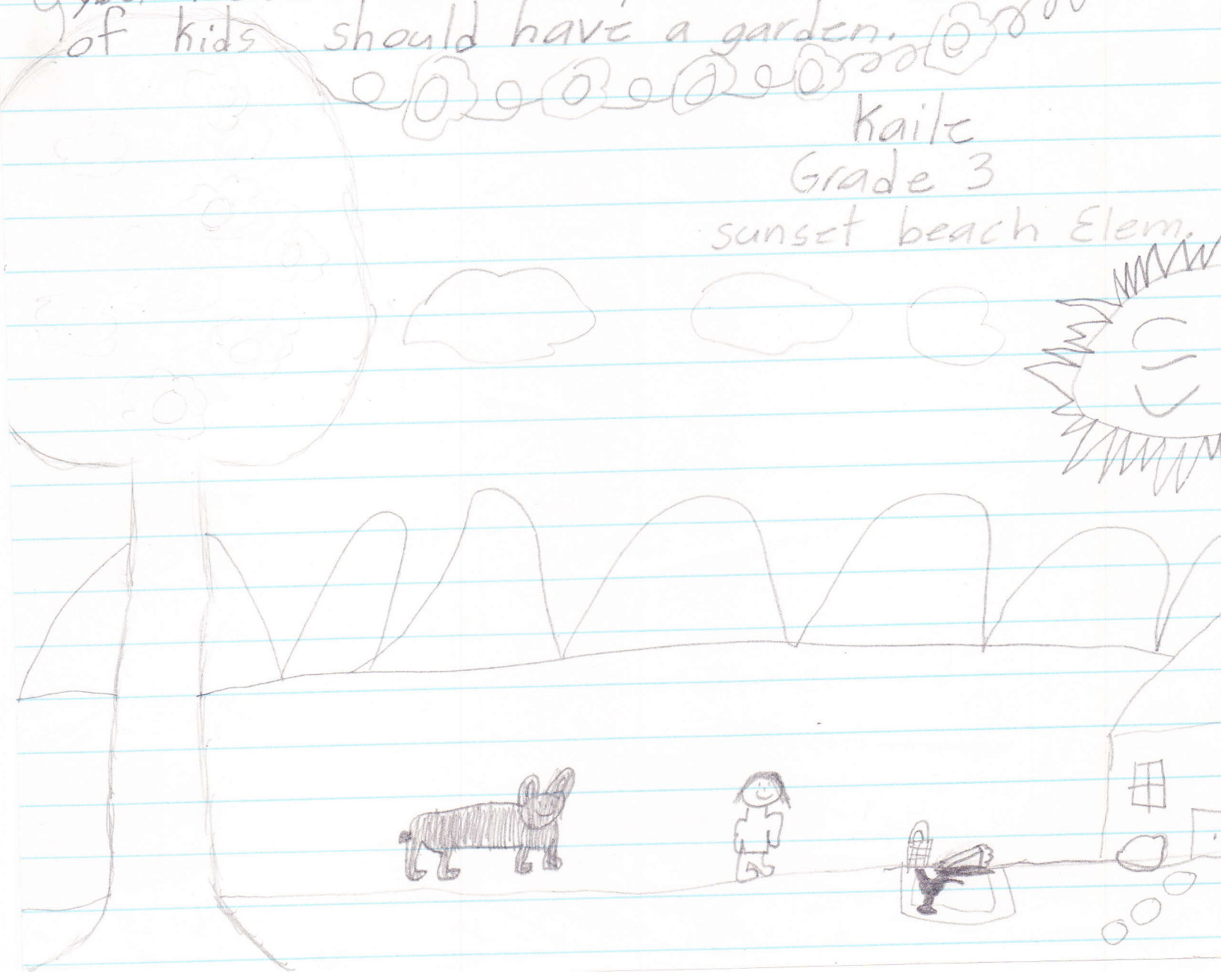
Feb. 11

Dear Lawmaker,

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

Kaile  
Grade 3

sunset beach Elem.



**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: Wonderful ~ teach the children well.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William W. Steiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As former Dean of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management a UH Hilo I recognized the need for children to have access to healthy foods and the need to provide a pipeline of ag students to the University system. It was always difficult to recruit enough students to attend college level agriculture. Given that the average age of Hawaii farmers is now around 60 years, there is critical need to recruit more farmers to grow our food which now suffers from 90% or so importation. Please pass this bill to remedy this situation. Mahalo.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: I support this bill because I think it is a good thing for us students to learn how to grown our own fruits and vegetables. Everything cost so much, I eat junk food and that's the only thing I like to eat because it's easier to make and I can just go to the store and buy it. But, I get sick all the time because I don't eat healthy. If you pass this bill then we can learn how to grow this at my school and at home. I can teach my parents to start planting tomatoes, and all kinds of vegetables so it'll be easier to just go in the yard and pick my food and eat it. Then we can save some money of going out all the time. This program will be good for all of us to have.

**HB627**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDN on Feb 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Snow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: "Schools are uniquely positioned to be a national focal point for obesity prevention..." —Institute of Medicine, "Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention: Solving the Weight of the Nation" According to the CDC's State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile for Hawaii, released in 2012, "Schools have been identified by HHI (the HDOH Healthy Hawaii Initiative) as the single most important institution with potential to improve educational and health outcomes for young people." It's time for Hawaii to take the health of our children here seriously by making Farm to School, including engaging nutrition education and local procurement, part of the fabric of public schools. As part of FoodCorps, a national non-profit that works to empower communities to raise healthier children, I have worked in several different states with Farm 2 School programs at the state level. The manpower on the state level, providing an overarching vision and coordination, is crucial to effecting change in our nutrition education and school meal policy, putting millions of dollars back into the state agricultural economy and adding quality and length to our children's lives. It is clear this bill would help institutionalize the change necessary to combat childhood obesity and diabetes here in Hawaii. As FoodCorps Founder and CEO Curt Ellis put it, "What we feed our children, and what we teach them about food in school, shapes how they learn, how they grow and how long they will live."



**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/18/2015  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0627, HD1 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. (HB627 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the intent of the recommendation in HB 0627 HD1 to consider development of standards to measure success of the Farm to School Coordinator positions. However, the department respectfully requests that the establishment of this position not adversely impact the priorities outlined in the Department's executive budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.