



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

LATE

Date: 02/10/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2782 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish a plant-based food and beverage program to award funds to participating public schools who serve meals that include plant-based food options or plant-based milk options, under certain conditions. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2782 provided it does not affect priorities in the Department's Board-approved budget.

The Department believes in providing healthy and wholesome food options for all of its students and has begun working towards serving more plant-based food options.

In school year 2019-2020, the Department's School Food Services Program started serving soy milk at 62 schools and will expand to other schools in the upcoming school year. In the past, the Department has offered plant-based options such as chicken-less nuggets and is currently doing research for other such menu items. Additionally, the Department has begun annual training for its 1,000 cafeteria workers across the state. This training focuses on building the skills needed to make both plant-based and non-plant based meals.

The Department is appreciative of the appropriation in the bill and believes that the additional funding will help to expand its plant-based program by providing the funds needed for equipment and training.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The Senate Committee on Education
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, February 10, 2020, 2:45 pm

LATE

In strong support of SB 2782

Dear Chair Kidani and members:

350Hawaii.org strongly supports SB 2782.

Animal agriculture is responsible for 13–18% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions globally. [<https://skepticalscience.com/animal-agriculture-meat-global-warming.htm>]

One calorie from animal protein requires 11 times as much fossil fuel as one calorie of plant protein. The diets of meat eaters create seven times the greenhouse gas emissions of the diets of vegans. Nearly half of all water used in the U.S. goes to raising animals for food. Over 200 million acres of U.S. forest have been cleared to create cropland to grow grain to feed farmed animals. [<https://www.culinaryschools.org/yum/vegetables/>]

Vegetarians generally eat fewer calories and less fat, weigh less, and have a lower risk of heart disease than nonvegetarians do. [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/in-depth/meatless-meals/art-20048193>]

Even reducing meat intake has a protective effect. Research shows that people who eat red meat are at an increased risk of death from heart disease, stroke or diabetes. Processed meats also increase the risk of death from these diseases. And what you don't eat can also harm your health. Diets low in nuts, seeds, seafood, fruits and vegetables also increase the risk of death. [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/in-depth/meatless-meals/art-20048193>]

Plant-based food options are a simple way to create many benefits. Unfortunately, they are often more expensive than meat. Funds for public schools that serve meals that include these options would encourage less meat consumption.

Meat requires more energy, more land, and more water than plant-based foods. It causes more emissions. It causes more health problems. It causes more suffering.

This bill mandates nothing. It only helps schools offer meals that are less harmful to students, the planet, and the atmosphere.

Please allow that option.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 4:23:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Kunimune	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of this bill. We need to make major changes in order to keep life on Earth and life on these islands sustainable. Reducing intake of animal-based foods is a powerful way to move toward this goal, both by reducing carbon emissions, but also by reducing the amount of land needed to feed our children, thus potentially reducing the amount of food we need to import.

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 2:25:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill! It is increasingly clear that animal agriculture is responsible for a huge amount of the global greenhouse gases that are causing the planet's climate to collapse (see for example, Steinfeld, H., Gerber, P., Wassenaar, T. D., Castel, V., Rosales, M., Rosales, M., & de Haan, C. (2006). *Livestock's long shadow: environmental issues and options*. Food & Agriculture Org of the U.N.) We need to start offering healthy, plant-based food and drink options in public schools, hospitals, universities, etc., that will offset climate collapse, improve public health, and begin to address the inherent cruelty to farmed animals that exists in current factory farms.

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 3:30:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Plant-rich diet is one of the most efficient solutions (classified solution #4 by the Drawdown project) to fight climate change, most important challenge of our time . We cannot wait to take action to try to save humanity. We need to start offering healthy, plant-based food and drink options in public schools, hospitals, universities, etc., that will offset climate collapse, improve public health, and begin to address the inherent cruelty to farmed animals that exists in current factory farms.

Please support this crucial bill.**Mahalo****Severine****Hawaii Kai, Honolulu**

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 5:12:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:58:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:57:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cori Gift	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha- Please vote in support of senate bill 2782. As a Mother, Healthcare professional, and long-time vegetarian, I fully support including plant-based food options within our schools, hospitals, and universities. Globally, there is a rise in interest in vegan and vegetarianism. Just turn on the television and you see how every major, popular fast food chain is now offering meat alternatives. Just by including these items on the menu, such as "beyond meat" and "impossible burgers" more consumers are turning toward healthier substitutes and realizing that vegetarianism is both easy, affordable, tasty, and sustainable. Vegetarian diets have been scientifically proven to improve health outcomes, whether Diabetes, Obesity, Inflammatory diseases, or Cardiac disease. This in turn keeps healthcare costs down and serves as a form of preventative health for those at risk for disease. We need to promote these positive dietary changes by instituting change at the State and local level, at the very least giving our students, families, and patients the option to live healthier, longer lives. Sincerely, Cori Gift, LCSW, Constituent

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:38:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophie Bretel Conger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are trying to eat healthy at home and try to reduce our carbon print impact by reducing the consumption of meat and I man appalled to see that every single day beef or chicken is served in my kids' schools. It's time to offer more vegetarian options in Hawaii schools.

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:53:22 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
p tibbs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill! It is increasingly clear that animal agriculture is responsible for a huge amount of the global greenhouse gases that are causing the planet's climate to collapse (see for example, Steinfeld, H., Gerber, P., Wassenaar, T. D., Castel, V., Rosales, M., Rosales, M., & de Haan, C. (2006). *Livestock's long shadow: environmental issues and options*. Food & Agriculture Org of the U.N.) We need to start offering healthy, plant-based food and drink options in public schools, hospitals, universities, etc., that will offset climate collapse, improve public health, and begin to address the inherent cruelty to farmed animals that exists in current factory farms.

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:49:23 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee and Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **strongly supports SB2782!**

We are a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible. One way to help achieve this goal is by encouraging more plant-based food consumption in schools to supplant meat and dairy options, which produce more greenhouse gases. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:03:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laura peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In enthusiastic support! I am a DOE employee and did not know about this...

Students physical and emotional health is an important foundation for learning (& life).

Due to federal red tape, many of the meals are cheap processed foods. The students joke about how many ways they are served chicken. So many of them don't even eat ALL day, even when meals are free. This is not normal for teenagers!

Most importantly, having healthier plant-based options would include ALL students in the breakfast and lunch program. Public schools are founded on the model of inclusiveness.

My position at the school oversees services for students with health challenges and special diets. There are more now than ever before. What is good for them would benefit all students. Also, I think about my seven year-old public school vegetarian niece, who has always had to bring home lunch.

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:14:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Ribeiro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

As a family nurse practitioner I see the effects of a non-plant based diet on health outcomes. As a mother my husband and I are raising our children vegetarian with a mostly plant based diet. Positive social modeling is an indirect, yet effective practice for promoting healthier diets in children. Studies have also shown how our keiki eat growing up predicts how they will eat as adults. If we want to prevent obesity, heart disease and diabetes and reduce the risk of multiple types of cancers we should start with early prevention. I support SB2782

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:34:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education,

I am writing in support of SB2782.

I believe that plant based meals are environmentally more sustainable for our planet. It is important to expose young children in school to a plant based meal so that they can become more familiar with vegetarian dishes. As our planet's population continues to increase, we will need to make policy level decision to reduce our green house emission (e.g. methane from cows) thus mitigating the climate crisis.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:18:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i on O'ahu. I am writing in to say I support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:42:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support SB2782

Industrial Animal Agriculture is the single greatest cause of pollution & global warming.

www.WeAreOne.cc



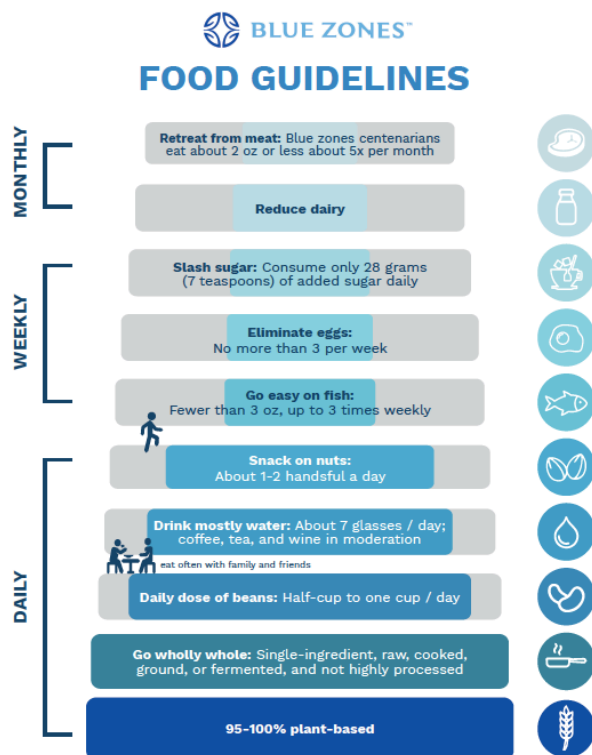
February 10, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT for SB2782**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SB2782. Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawaii by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

There is growing evidence supporting the well-being benefit of plant-based diets and plant-based milk options. Blue Zones Project has distilled more than 150 dietary surveys of the world's longest-lived people to discover the secrets of a longevity diet.¹ These can be summarized in the following graphic:



¹ Food Guidelines. *Blue Zones*. <https://www.bluezones.com/recipes/food-guidelines/>

In addition, we know that most U.S. youth do not meet the recommendation of eating 2.5 to 6.5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily.² Adding plant-based meal options can make the healthier choice easier and nudge students towards eating more fruits and vegetables. Exposing more students to plant-based meals and plant-based milk options can shift student's perceptions about healthy foods, which can influence eating behaviors out of the school environment, as well. This bill can also boost student participation in the lunch program, while complying with requirements of the USDA's National School Lunch Program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong **support** for **SB2782**.



Colby Takeda, MBA, MPH
Senior Manager
Blue Zones Project Hawaii

² National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>

LATE

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 1:26:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate,

I am writing in strong support SB2782 to offer more plant-based options in schools. Not only have I been completely plant-based for eight years and have found it to be the healthiest diet for my body and supports the protection of our planet. I am raising my daughter to be the same. The food offered in public schools is one of the biggest concerns I have when considering private or public school options. Though I will raise my child to know the ethical and health reasons for her diet, I would hope that the school system supports that choice and gives it to more of our keiki. At this time, I feel the schools are more subject to the federal contracts and requirements when creating meal plans and not proper nutrition for keiki. If not, why would there be such heavily processed and refined sugar laden foods? More and more people are becoming aware of the connection that meat and dairy have to diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and lack of nutrition. I hope you prioritize what will help children's minds and bodies thrive!

Similarly to protecting our keiki's future, animal agriculture is responsible for a huge amount of the global greenhouse gases that are causing the planet's climate to collapse (see for example, Steinfeld, H., Gerber, P., Wassenaar, T. D., Castel, V., Rosales, M., Rosales, M., & de Haan, C. (2006). Livestock's long shadow: environmental issues and options. Food & Agriculture Org of the U.N.) We need to start offering healthy, plant-based food and drink options in public schools, hospitals, universities, etc., that will offset climate collapse, improve public health, and begin to address the inherent cruelty to farmed animals that exists in current factory farms.

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2782.

Sincerely,

Lauren Watanabe, Makiki Resident.

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: Plant-based Food and Beverage Program; Department of Education;
Appropriation (\$)

Monday, February 10th, 2020

2:45 p.m.

Good afternoon Members of the Committee:

My name is Maria Guardino. I am a teacher at Kawanānakoā Middle School in Honolulu on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of SB2782, which is to provide plant-based food and beverages as an option to our public-school students and staff.

In an age where we honor civil rights and demand that public schools provide an education that upholds a “quality education for ALL students” with an emphasis on inclusion and differentiation, now is the time that we acknowledge and provide accommodations for dietary needs as well.

Sometimes it is not the child’s choice to become plant-based, it could be health conditions of other family members that begin the journey of eating an alternative diet. It also could be the family’s choice to be sustainable.

When a school does not offer a choice of food, the child may feel alienated or isolated and not be able to eat what schools now provide. As a teacher, I know that a child whose basic needs are not met, can find learning a challenge.

Schools need to provide options that show the community that the State of Hawaii is aware and responsible for the health, future and inclusion of all our children in public schools.

Please support SB 2782.

Mahalo

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:16:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2782

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:35:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/10/2020 2:45:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
morgan gallo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is everything. Our family is plant-based due to a auto immune disease that I have called multiple sclerosis. We have chosen to live this lifestyle because it actually takes the place of me taking these terrible- harmful- lifelong drugs. Because of this wonderful diet, my multiple sclerosis has gone into remission and my symptoms have reversed and I have become the healthiest I have ever been my whole life. while I am able to cook for my family in this fashion at home and send them with lunches to school, it really brings down the morale of my children when they are not able to eat what their classmates are eating. Trying to explain to them that the things that they are classmates are eating isn't the healthiest nutrients that could be going into their body is almost impossible because all they see is they are missing out. If even they were given an opportunity to have and option to when lunch is being served, they too, would be served to them and they are not unpacking a sandwich versus their classmates having a hot lunch served. How hard is it really instead of serving a meat sauce and spaghetti to serve a marinara sauce? It's one of the easiest adjustments. Instead of serving a hamburger why not a veggie burger one of the times? Don't we want our children to eat healthier? Which brings me to my second point. Unfortunately, most of the items that plant-based diet brings without the ability to warm up in a microwave due to laws with outside food coming into the schools and the cafeteria workers handling them, we are pretty limited. Therefore most days my children will have to eat a cold lunch instead of a hot lunch like all the other children in school get. And why are we not introducing more nutritious meals in general to the school system and our children. Aren't our children are future? Don't we want to teach them the healthiest ways to take care of their bodies? We're just beginning to touch on keeping our minds healthy but we really need to focus on also keeping our bodies healthy. Can you imagine the impact, positive impact, serving foods like this to the youth of our country Could bring? Food is energy, nutrition, happiness, hope and health.