



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 8:30am

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
And  
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean  
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### **HB 627 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, of HB 627, which establishes the Hawaii 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, 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.