



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Only Testimony

Submitted to the

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 2:15 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

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### HCR 95 – DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH" IN HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FARM TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 95, which designates the month of October as "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.

This positive action to promote public awareness of the Farm to School effort is intended to connect schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals; improving nutrition and lowering childhood obesity; providing agriculture, health, and nutrition education opportunities; and supporting our local farmers. These objectives coincide with those of the agriculture, health, and nutrition programs developed and implemented by College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for the benefit of the agricultural community and the children of Hawai'i, and we are pleased to lend our support to this initiative.

Supportive research and extension efforts by CTAHR include the many projects addressing children's health and nutrition under the umbrella of our Nutrition Education for Wellness (NEW) program; and the Children's Healthy Living Program (CHL), a \$25 million, competitive grant-funded effort to decrease childhood obesity rates through regionally and culturally appropriate nutritional and physical activity programs throughout Hawai'i and the American Pacific.

These objectives are also very much in line with agricultural education efforts at the Hilo and West Hawai'i campuses of the University of Hawai'i, Maui College, and the Community College campuses.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our support for HCR 95, and for the designation of "Farm to School Month" in Hawai'i.