



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented before the
House Committee on Agriculture
April 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 121, SD1 – REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Wooley, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I serve as Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am presenting testimony on behalf of Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM).

We support the intent of SCR 121, SD1, as it promotes locally grown food in schools, educates students about food cultivation and healthy eating habits, and supports the local agricultural industry. The measure is also in keeping with the State's initiative to increase Hawai'i's food self-sufficiency from the current reality of importing to the state upwards of 85% of all food we consume, and relates to CTAHR's vision to actively help Hawaii to diversity its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and strengthen its communities.

We are willing to help facilitate this process in accordance with the purposes of this unfunded mandate, to work with the State Departments of Agriculture and Education, the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, and others as appropriate, to convene a working group of stakeholders to consider the feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in our public schools, to develop an appropriate farm to school policy statement, and to submit findings and recommendations to the 2010 Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.