



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
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By

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Dean

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HB 1662 – RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH IN HAWAII

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education, thank you for this opportunity to express the support of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for HB 1662, 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 initiative 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 CTAHR 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 (outreach) 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 \$20 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.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express my support for HB 1662, and for designation of "Farm to School Month in Hawai'i."