



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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by
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and

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HB 1988 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 1988 HD1, which establishes the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and Farm to School Coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

We are in support of the purpose of this program as stated in the revised HB 1988 HD1, which is to increase the use of locally-grown food in state agencies, and to fund a farm-to-school coordinator in the Department of Agriculture for this purpose. The farm-to-school coordinator should act as a liaison with other state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawai'i, to develop plans to increase the use of locally-grown foods within state agencies.

In previous testimony, we stated an objection to a second duty of the coordinator that was included in earlier deleted language of "coordinating agricultural education in schools throughout the state from preschool through high school and at the university level" on the basis that coordination of education at the university level is the responsibility of the University of Hawai'i, rather than the Department of Agriculture.

However, we wish to clarify that we would have no objection to the Farm to School Coordinator participating in collaborative interagency efforts to support agricultural education in Hawai'i.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express the conditional support of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, for HB 1988, with our request that responsibility for coordinating agricultural education be removed from the bill.