

**SCR121**



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## TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

**SCR 121: REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, 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 Chair Sakamoto, Tokuda, Chair Hee, and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of its member farmers and ranchers is in **strong support of SCR 121** proposing a feasibility review for a Farm to School Program.

As referenced in the preamble, the Farm to School program is a well established National Program. In Hawaii Koku Hawaii Foundation has piloted efforts in this area. It provides opportunities for our farmers and ranchers and will significantly add towards our self sufficiency.

We have also seen studies where students select salad and fruit bars as well as other healthy eating options when provided a choice. This is a good investment to minimizing healthcare costs in the future. Creating a linkage between farms and schools could bring about a greater appreciation of the source of food and foster a career choice in agriculture. The opportunities are boundless.

An important part to having a successful Farm to School Program is a State Procurement System that supports such an initiative. This year, there are two measures, HB988 and SB506 which address the shortfalls to encourage local purchases of agricultural products within the State system. We are optimistic of its' passage. We have been working with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education and the State Procurement Office to ensure that the Procurement Policy is not an impediment for the purchase of local agricultural products. We urge that this group continue as the core group for this process to address this issue. Also included should be a member representing the Student Councils as they would best know the kinds of menus that would be most attractive in the schools. During the discussions, shortfalls in the procurement system may be discovered. Suggestions on amendments to the procurement policy to address such issues should also be included in the report.

What is lacking at this time is a State Policy as a expression of commitment to this program, sending a message to all schools that opportunities to exploit farm to school programs should be exploited. Many states have policies, and examples are provided at the Farm to School website: <http://www.farmtoschool.org/policies.php>. We respectfully urge that a **draft policy regarding a Farm to School Program in Hawaii** be included in the Report to the Legislature.

We respectfully request your support in amending this measure to be address the issues addressed above supporting the Farm to School. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

# *Maui County Farm Bureau*

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

*Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

P.O. Box 148

Kula, Hawaii 96790

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Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

**SCR 121: REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, 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 Sakamoto, Tokuda, Chair Hee, and Members of the Committees:

Maui County Farm Bureau is Maui's general agriculture advocacy non-profit organization. Affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation, we represent Maui's farm and ranch families and organizations. MCFB **strongly supports** SCR121 considering the feasibility of a Farm to School Program.

MCFB has for several years, with the support of the County of Maui carried out an Ag in the Classroom Program. This program, sanctioned by the Department of Education, exposes 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to agriculture. It has been well received with the number of schools participating every year on the increase.

This program complements our Ag in the Classroom program by further educating our youngsters about the source of their food and to bring an appreciation of what it takes to grow the food. At the same time, healthy eating habits can be nurtured while supporting farms and ranches to increase our level of self sufficiency.

We understand there are models of successful Farm to School Programs. On Maui, one of our farms has regularly provided to a school. We believe favorable procurement policies would go a long ways to making this program a reality.

We strongly support the intent of this measure, but respectfully suggest amending it to include amendments proposed by the Hawaii Farm Bureau. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.



March 30, 2009  
1:40 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
EDUCATION AND HOUSING, HIGHER EDUCATION,  
AND WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

RE: SCR 121 - Requesting the University of Hawaii, 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

Dear Chairs Sakamoto, Tokuda and Hee; Vice Chair Kidani; and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 97 private and independent schools statewide that educate over 30,000 elementary and secondary students.

HAIS is in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, which requests that a working group of stakeholders be convened to consider the feasibility of establishing a farm-to-school program in Hawaii's public schools.

The Association is a **strong supporter** of farm-to-school programs, as we are of the belief that they provide students with unique, real-world opportunities to learn about topics ranging from nutrition and health to agriculture, ecology, environmental sustainability and economics. In addition, they help support the local agriculture industry and provide students with improved meal options by giving school cafeterias access to fresh local produce. To that end, we are currently in conversation with the Department of Agriculture to explore establishing a pilot farm-to-school program involving some of our member schools and local farmers.

As this pilot program appears to be very similar to the program proposed for study by this resolution, we respectfully request that SCR 121 be amended to include HAIS in the group of stakeholders and that the scope of the group's study of the feasibility of establishing a statewide farm-to-school program be expanded to include implementation at private, as well as public, schools. In light of the parallel efforts already underway within the independent school community, we would like to be formally named in this resolution so that we might collaborate with the Department of Education and the other stakeholders named in SCR 121 on this effort.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Personal Testimony to the  
Senate Committees on Education and Housing  
Higher Education  
and  
Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
on  
March 30, 2009 at 1:40 p.m.  
by  
Andrew G. Hashimoto

SCR 121 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, 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

Chairs Sakamoto, Tokuda, and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani, Sakamoto, and Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

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 Hawaii at Manoa. My comments are personal and do not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

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

I am willing to help facilitate this process in accordance with the purposes of this unfunded mandate, to work with the Department of Agriculture, the 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 our public schools, and to submit findings and recommendations to the 2010 Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Thomas T Shirai Jr  
P O Box 601  
Waialua, HI 96791  
Email: [Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com)

Notice of Hearing  
Monday, March 30, 2009  
1:40PM / State Capitol Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Education & Housing (EDH)  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair/Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education (HRE)  
Senator Jill N Tokuda, Chair/Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair/Senator Jill N Tokuda, Vice Chair

March 28, 2009

RE: Testimony of Support for SCR 121 (Requesting the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture & 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)

Aloha Chair's Sakamoto, Tokuda, Hee & Committee Members,

I **support** SCR 121. I'm an alumni of *Waialua High & Intermediate School* and was a member of my school's *FFA (Future Farmers of America)* chapter when it was an ICON for 10 years (1976-1986). We were ranked within the top 25 chapters nationwide which comprised of 8800 chapters. During my membership in the *FFA*, I won the state plant identification competition for two consecutive years and was our chapter's *Sentinel (Sgt at Arms)*. Our chapter also produced a recipient the *FFA's* highest award which is the *American Farmer*. Also our chapter has been a recipient of numerous awards regarding *Agri-Business*. Additional credit of chapter is that *Hulihuli Chicken* was invented and originated here in the 1950's for funding our school's interscholastic program.

The *Department of Education (DOE)* implemented a program called *PIP (Pre-Industrial Preparation)* when I attended *WHS*. This program had students who were apart of Industrial Arts which was *Agriculture & Horticulture, Carpentry, Auto Mechanics or Food Service (Home Economics)*. All academic courses (Math, English, Science ect.) was centered around that specific industrial art. It was very successful during that time however *Vocational Agriculture and Horticulure* along with *FFA* is no longer continued at *WHS*. During Senator *Lorraine Inouye's* tenure she introduced legislation to make an appropriation for the *Future Farmers of America* here in *Hawaii* however, it never crossed-over.

Agriculture and Horticulture courses should continue to be apart of our public school circiculum along with funding for such entities as *Future Farmers of America (FFA)*.

*Thomas T Shirai Jr*  
*Mokule'ia, Waialua*

# FFA WINS THREE NATIONAL AWARDS Includes Coveted Gold Emblem

What appears as a colorful motorcycle gang on campus is actually the blue and gold of the FFA jacket wearers. The jacket, however is not the only interesting aspect of the FFA.

Waialua's FFA has just received notice from the National FFA organization three more awards.

A gold emblem in "Building Our School Community," a silver emblem in the National Chapter Award Program,

and a silver emblem in the National Chapter Safety Award Program were all presented to the FFA this summer.

Waialua is one of 28 to receive the American Community Award out of 8,148 chapters. In the National Chapter Award, Waialua High is one of 114 chapters so honored. In the National Chapter Safety Award Program, Waialua's FFA was one of 34 chapters to receive the emblem.

The FFA is an agriculture and horticultural

aggregate of WHS students. The club is large with sixty members last year alone.

Waialua's FFA has been a superior chapter for seven years. Club activities include projects which are helpful to the community and those which aid members in learning more about agriculture.

Last year, the FFA gave plant demonstrations to the senior citizens and at the IGA first anniversary celebration. The club donated plants to Waialua

Elementary School and to the Baptist Pre-school plant sale. FFA members also cooked huli-huli chicken for the PTA and Booster Club.

The FFA plans on continuing many of the same activities this school year. The FFA is advised by Mr. Noel Kawachi. Mr. Kawachi feels that, "It's a great accomplishment to be good in both competition on local and national levels. I hope we do as well this year."

## THE Waialuan

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