



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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House Committee on Finance
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By
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And
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SB 376 SD2 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 376 SD2, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of SB 376 SD2, we believe that this is an effective approach to further the goals of greater use of local farm products within the public school system, and a coordinated approach to agricultural, health, and nutrition education within the schools.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been active in the discussions around these issues. We will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote greater use of local farm products and further development of a comprehensive and effective farm to school program.