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Governor



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LATE
TESTIMONY

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
9:00 A.M
ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1179, SD2
RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1179, SD2. The purpose of this bill is to establish a farm to school program in Hawaii's public schools.

The HDOA appreciates this committee's efforts to support programs that give students the choice to eat healthier, more nutritious local produce and expand the market for local farmers. The HDOA supports the intent of SB 1179, SD2 and defers to the Department of Education (DOE) regarding the feasibility of establishing a farm to school program in Hawaii's schools.

The HDOA is working toward increasing food self-sufficiency in Hawaii, raising production and demand of locally grown foods and decreasing our dependence on imported foods. The Department is collaborating with public and private institutions, and industry stakeholders, to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables from local producers. This program if implemented by DOE, will complement our efforts.