A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GARDENS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that school gardens provide interactive, hands-on learning environments in which students learn fundamental concepts about nutrition and obesity prevention; composting and waste management techniques; and cultural and historical aspects of the local food supply. School gardens foster a better understanding and appreciation of where food comes from, how food travels from the farm to the table, and the important role of agriculture in the state and global economy. School gardens enhance many subject areas, including science, environmental education, mathematics, reading, writing, art, nutrition, physical education, history, and geography.

The legislature further finds that in addition to school gardens, community gardens create welcoming and attractive neighborhoods, while serving as an important outdoor recreational opportunity for residents. Community gardens have many benefits, including the promotion of healthy populations,
thereby reducing public health costs; the beautification of
neighborhoods and public spaces, which may increase property
values; and the general advancement of residents' health and
welfare by encouraging a sense of community.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
education and the Hawaii community development authority to
develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on
school campuses and within communities.

SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
and to read as follows:

"§302A- Gardening programs. Notwithstanding any other
law to the contrary, the department may develop programs that
provide incentives for the development of gardens on school
property; provided that the college of tropical agriculture and
human resources of the University of Hawaii at Manoa shall be
consulted regarding best practices in gardening, including
vertical gardening, aquaponics, and community gardening."

SECTION 3. Section 206E-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended to read as follows:
"[§206E-4.5] Urban-gardening programs. Gardening

programs. Notwithstanding any [other provision of] law[.] to
the contrary, the authority may develop programs that provide
incentives for the development of [housing projects that
incorporate urban gardening programs;] gardens in housing
projects, communities, and schools; provided that the college of
tropical agriculture and human resources of the University of
Hawaii at Manoa shall be consulted regarding best practices in
[urban] gardening, including vertical gardening, aquaponics, and
community gardening."

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
Report Title:
HCDA; Department of Education; School Gardens; Community Gardens

Description:
Authorizes the department of education and Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens on school campuses and within housing projects and communities.

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