A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GARDENS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I:

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:

(1) The department of education to develop programs that encourage the development of gardens on school property; and

(2) The Hawaii community development authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools.

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 encourage 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] 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 on July 1, 2150.
Report Title:
HCDA; Department of Education; School Gardens; Community Gardens

Description:
Authorizes the Department of Education to develop programs to encourage the development of gardens on school property. Authorizes the Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives to establish gardens in housing projects, communities, and schools. (SB303 HD1)

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