



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DOUG CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180, SENATE DRAFT 1

Requesting the Department of Education to reexamine the menu schedules for school meals to give local produce suppliers the ability to provide locally grown produce in each meal, in keeping with United States Department of Agriculture standards.

April 4, 2018

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor appreciates this opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 180, Senate Draft 1 that requests the Department of Education to reexamine their menu schedules for school meals to give local produce suppliers the ability to provide locally grown produce in each meal, in keeping with USDA standards. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor supports the intent of this measure and offers comments as the Department of Education is already undertaking much of what is being asked of in this resolution through the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program.

The vision of farm to school is to improve the health of schoolchildren and support local agriculture by incorporating fresh, local food into child nutrition programs. Since 2015, my predecessor former Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui spearheaded the Hawaii Farm to School Initiative to test whether this vision is achievable for Hawaii. Today, while housed within HDOE's School Food Services Branch (SFSB), this pioneering initiative is now called 'Aina Pono and it is the State of Hawaii's campaign that not only aims to bring more healthy, nutritious, fresh, and local food to school cafeterias throughout Hawai'i, but to also help reinvigorate Hawaii's agricultural lands and economy and change the way we procure and prepare food for all state institutions. SFSB was targeted to be the lead implementing agency as HDOE is the state's single largest purchaser of food.

I am proud to continue to work to achieve this vision, now that a team of public and private partners has demonstrated that yes, it is possible but not without some significant changes made by

the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) to its approach to school food, including (at a minimum):

- (1) Introduction of new menus with recipes that emphasize fresh, local food;
- (2) Institution of staff training to be able to prepare these new recipes;
- (3) Collection of data, financial analysis (including by school profit and loss statements), leadership training, and waste management to create the efficiencies needed to afford better quality food;
- (4) Conducting agricultural market research and networking to source local food and build supply over time;
- (5) Exploration of new approaches to procurement and contracts with multiple local food vendors; and
- (6) Implementation of nutrition education to encourage students to try new foods and make healthy food choices.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the 'Aina Pono Executive Committee which includes my office, HIDOE, the Kohala Center, and Beyond Green Sustainable Partners has worked tirelessly to show proof of concept – that reexamining and redesigning our school menus around what is available locally can support local agriculture.

In January 2018, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and HIDOE launched a local food procurement working group to help HIDOE's SFSB and Procurement Contracts Branch (PCB) develop new procurement solicitations that will support buying local. As a result, the working group, through our non-profit partner The Kohala Center, engaged the Anthology Market Research firm to do agricultural market research for HIDOE-SFSB and HIDOE-PCB so that we can better understand existing barriers for food distributors and farmers to respond to HIDOE solicitations for locally-grown produce, meat, and other food. HIDOE is also reevaluating and developing menus that incorporate local agricultural products that are already available and being grown and we need to understand now what is out there, when, where, and by how much so we can maximize our support of buying local and not disrupt the supply chain.

Research objectives include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Solicit feedback on HIDOE solicitation document language, terms, and solicitation process.
- (2) Identify products (including growing patterns and timelines) currently available to distributors (or produced by local farmers) that could be incorporated into HIDOE breakfast, lunch, and snack programs, and better understand production calendars of crops.
- (3) Better understand barriers and incentives for farmers to work with distributors, HIDOE.

As state leaders, we must support efforts to reexamine our menus and make 'Aina Pono a state priority through policy and legislation. At 24-million prepared meals annually, HIDOE is the state's largest purchaser of food. This program has the potential to support local agriculture, create jobs, increase food security statewide, and boost academic performance and childhood health through improved nutrition. A message from state leadership prioritizing the reexamination of HIDOE menu development processes through the implementation of 'Aina Pono will set the stage for prioritizing the project within multiple state departments.

We must also encourage and empower HIDOE – as the single largest public purchaser of food and lead implementing agency for 'Aina Pono – to undertake the significant efforts listed above to implement the program statewide, which amounts to broad-based systems changes within the HIDOE's School Food Services Branch.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 4, 2018
4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180 SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REEXAMINE THE MENU
SCHEDULES FOR SCHOOL MEALS TO GIVE LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS THE
ABILITY TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN EACH MEAL, IN KEEPING
WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 180 SD1. The purpose of this measure is to ask the Department of Education (HIDOE) to reexamine the menu schedules for school meals to include more fresh produce. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and ultimately defers to HIDOE.

Since the legislature established the Hawaii Farm to School Program in the Department of Agriculture with Act 218 (SLH 2015), the Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator began working with HIDOE and public charter schools to “address the issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities” (HRS §141-11(b)), focusing on “enriching the local food system through the support and increase of local food procurement for the State’s public schools and other institutions” (HRS §141-11(a)(3)). The Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator has been working closely with HIDOE-Hawaii Child Nutrition Program (HIDOE-HCNP), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Hawaii State Procurement Office to identify opportunities to increase menu and recipe flexibility to allow for seasonal variability with locally grown purchases that will comply with federal and state



procurement rules, as well as the USDA meal patterning requirements for reimbursement. Through these efforts and new leadership at HIDOE-School Food Services Branch (HIDOE-SFSB), “seasonal produce” is now on the HIDOE menus across Hawaii, allowing kitchen managers to purchase locally available produce within the USDA required categories; this is tremendous progress.

The Department of Agriculture is encouraged by HIDOE-SFSB’s increased purchases of locally grown food in their ‘Aina Pono farm to school initiative, and supports HIDOE’s continued efforts to work with our local producers to supply their menus statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 — 4:00 p.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SCR 180 SD 1, Requesting the Department of Education to Reexamine the Menu Schedules for School Meals to Give Local Produce Suppliers the Ability to Provide Locally Grown Produce in Each Meal, in Keeping with United States Department of Agriculture Standards

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports SCR 180 SD 1, which requests the Department of Education to reexamine menu schedules to allow for more local produce to be supplied, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

The effort to incorporate more local foods into school cafeterias started decades ago with passionate advocates, was test trialed in the last year at the Kohala school complex via funding by private sector and non-profit foundation grants, and resulted in adoption by the Department of Education after demonstrating initial success thru data. The results were encouraging, including greater meal participation, less food waste, far higher local food and fresh food content, and, bottom line, lower cost per meal eaten. It also sets the foundation for our students to understand the value and benefits of a scratch-cooked meal and why fresh, locally produced foods are important, thereby influencing their behavior, health, and purchasing decisions for the rest of their lives.

We applaud the Department of Education's leadership in supporting this project. The Department of Education's school food services branch leadership and staff deserves credit for being much more flexible in accommodating local foods than in prior years.

Yet, to continue the momentum and scale the program, obtaining more local products from our local farmers and ranchers presents unique challenges. If menu schedules for school

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meals were to be reanalyzed and could be made to be more flexible with local suppliers, this could create a win-win scenario for our local agriculture industries and students.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner



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April 4, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 180, SD1

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REEXAMINE THE MENU SCHEDULES FOR SCHOOL MEALS TO GIVE LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN EACH MEAL, IN KEEPING WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.

Room 211
4:00 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports SCR 180, SD1**, which requests the Department of Education to reexamine the menu schedules for school meals to give local produce suppliers the ability to provide locally grown produce in each meal, in keeping with United States Department of Agriculture standards.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

SCR-180-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:56:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for the Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: