

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 6, 2020
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE STATE PROCUREMENT OF
LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD**

Chairpersons Thielen, Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 38 which requests the Lieutenant Governor's Office to establish a multi-stakeholder task force to advance state procurement of locally produced food. The Department supports this resolution and is a willing participant on this task force. The Department notes that some local food aggregators, such as food hubs, could benefit from familiarity with the procurement process utilized by institutions of the State. The task force could provide necessary coordination to facilitate small farmers' ability to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/06/2020

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: 224

Committee: Senate Government Operations
Senate Agriculture and Environment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 038 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE STATE PROCUREMENT OF LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 038.

The Department, over the last two years, has systematically increased its utilization of locally raised and grown items. Through collaborative efforts such as work with cooperatives of small-scale farmers, the Department has been able to serve as the liaison between various ranchers, farmers and distributors. Additionally, the Department has worked with multiple local and state agencies to increase its utilization of locally raised and grown items.

Thus, the Department supports the establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force to advance the state procurement of locally produced food with key partners. This effort will continue to help local farmers, ranchers, and distributors while increasing the health of our economy, our bodies and our overall health as a state.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



3/3/2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 38 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chairman Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Alternative Structures International (dba Kahumana Organic Farms), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization operating on 50 acres in Lualualei Valley in Waianae. Since its establishment in 1974, Kahumana has integrated social services with training venues and social ventures that work toward three goals: 1. Ending Local Family Homelessness, 2. Providing Services for People With Developmental Disabilities, and 3. Lowering Hawaii's Dependence on Imported Food.

In 2017, Kahumana launched Kahumana Farm Hub (KFH) with the mission of connecting local growers with local markets. The hub facilitates sales on behalf of small farmers and backyard growers on the Leeward Coast of Oahu. The hub has been a powerful reminder of how Hawaii residents can contribute to food security. In the first 2 years KFH generated a total of \$280,499 of which \$204,325 was paid directly to over 100 growers and their families. KFH shows that multiple small farmers and backyard growers create a resilient network illustrating the strength in numbers of backyard grower and their contribution to Hawaii's local food supply.

Kahumana strongly supports SCR 38 which would strengthen representation of food hubs in the farm-to-state planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Zuckerman", written over a horizontal line.

Christian Zuckerman
Farm Director
Kahumana Organic Farms
86-660 Lualualei Homestead Road
96792, Waianae HI

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 1:13:32 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

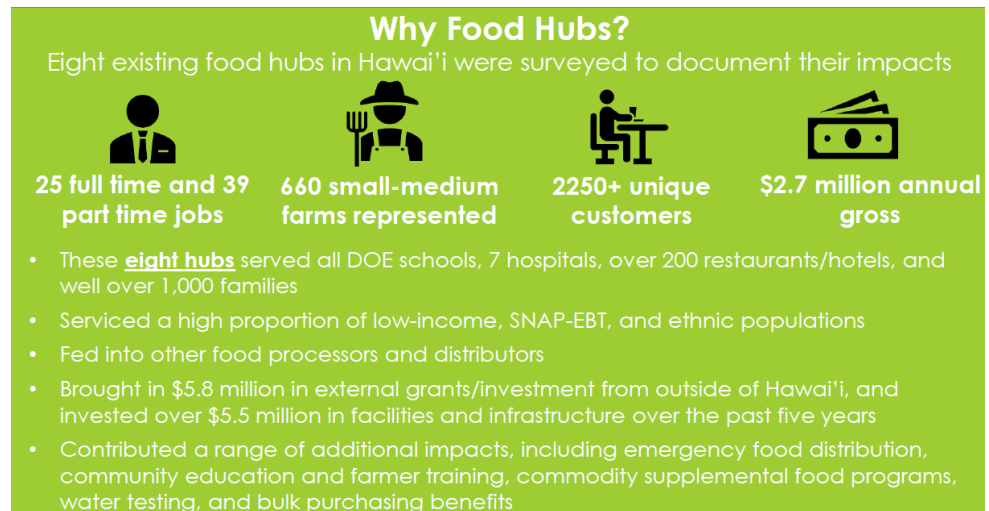
I support this resolution because it is designed to benefit local agriculture and economy.

3/3/2020

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 38 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chairman Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

A recent survey of 8 food hubs by the Hawai'i Farmers Union United show that they represent over 650 small and medium farms and generate 2.7 million in income annually in local food sales (see image below).



By way of introduction, I am Saleh Azizi, and I am the Community Economic Development Coordinator at Kahumana Organic Farms, an organization operating for 40 years in Wai'anae to provide services to the most vulnerable members of our community, combat homelessness, provide service for people with disabilities and lower Hawaii's dependence on imported foods through sustainable agriculture.

In 2019, I worked with the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation as a Food Hub Coordinator. I facilitated meetings with ten existing food hubs to document the obstacles they face in their journey to expand operations and services for the benefit of small farmers who grow local food for Hawaii's consumers. The observations and recommendations compromised a central part of my PhD. Dissertation that was awarded in 2019 by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support this measure as this Resolution would strengthen representation of food hubs in the farm-to-state planning process.

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, PhD

808-383 5224

azizi@hawaii.edu

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:39:36 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 4:40:55 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 9:40:31 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 10:04:13 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Testifying for A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/3/2020 10:08:04 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dianna Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 1:01:23 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Testifying for Maui Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 6:55:58 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
La'akea Kaufman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SCR38 due to the high need of our communities in Hawai'i to have equitable access to fresh, culturally appropriate foods. Our farmers especially deserve a guaranteed market where they can store and sell their products, as the volatility of our current economic system often leaves them in debt or struggling to break even while also trying to feed our population. We in Hawai'i are in desperate need of infrastructure to transport, store, and prepare locally grown foods and products. This bill is a positive step forward in making us more independent as a state and more nourished as a people.

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 7:42:55 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Sundberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 7:46:14 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

The DOE's 'Aina Pono Program in the past has benefitted from a multi-stakeholder Task Force under the direction of the Lt. Governor to advance increased procurement of locally produced foods. Because the "transition" from processed food to more whole foods that are scratch cooked is a complex one, helping DOE at every step would be an important support, not just for their needs but for all institutional purchasing and for our local farmers who might some day want to grow for the DOE. I can see the sign now, out in front of the farm. "We grow food for your children!" I would suggest the Task Force include those who are currently directly working with DOE SFSB on increasing procurement. They know the most and have the deepest background knowledge. Like the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Director.

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 8:38:36 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 9:45:22 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Garrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 10:18:53 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Douvris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 12:37:51 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tanya torres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Increasing local food is important but a complex task. As a graduate researcher at the University of Hawaii studying local agriculture in Hawaii. I think having a diverse task force is necessary to improving local agriculture in Hawaii. We need a team working on this issue from all angles. That is the only way it can happen successfully.

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 2:12:51 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 2:21:06 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Craig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 2:38:21 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary	Testifying for Slow Money Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

As a non-profit that supports farmers by introducing them to individuals interesting in lending them capital to grow their farms, I know first-hand that more avenues for selling local produce and livestock are needed. "Build it and they will come" i.e. build the market and the local farmers as well as those in farmer-training programs will grow the produce needed. More mass markets are needed to reduce the time and effort that farmer's must take away from growing to spend on marketing and delivery.

Respectfully,

Mary Spadaro

Founder and Facilitator, Slow Money Hawaii

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/4/2020 6:03:54 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As matters such as Coronavirus and the other 20 deadly viruses that are annually invented - threaten to shut down mobilization, and the ever corporate-led government wages war over trade value, which also threatens our ability to get food from other sources, we are reminded that:

1. no amount of money is going to feed this entire island if resources and barges shut down
2. no amount of harvesting the current amount of resources is going to feed the entire island population

Common sense tells me that we should be prioritizing our politics to put local food growth at the top of the agenda to support, because food takes time to grow. We are already nearly wiped out of limu as well as other local natural resources. What does the state of Hawai'i plan to do, in the event of an emergency? I sure hope they don't plan on depending on FEMA to show up. The state will have far bigger problems if it is not being responsible for its citizens.

Wisdom and wise leaders would be smart and prevent disaster by investing in the local growth of food. It can both enhance our overall economy as well as prevent certain disasters from heavier impact.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 6, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SCR 38

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE STATE PROCUREMENT OF
LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Thielen and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Ruderman, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SCR 38, which requests that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor establish a multi-stakeholder task force to advance the state procurement of locally produced food with key partners, including the State Procurement Office, Department of Education's 'Āina Pono, food hub operators and family farmers, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and distributors and groups that advocate for family farmers.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products in our schools, hospitals, prisons, and other public institutions.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak about the challenges of the system. Many of our small farmers and ranchers find it difficult to enter into state supply contracts. For example, it may be feasible to supply an individual school or group of schools within a reasonable geographic area from the farm, but providing to the entire multi-school system may not be possible for many island farmers. The focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible, while taking into consideration the current capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii.

Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority. It is also clear to HFB that education at all levels is needed, not just within our group of farmers and ranchers, but also within HDOA, DOH, DOE, food distributors, and the procurement office.

The proposed Task Force can help determine how to increase the purchase by State institutions of more locally-grown agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry.

HFB respectfully requests to be included as a member of the Task Force to assist in improving and implementing a procurement program that will allow Hawaii's farmers and ranchers to source more products to State institutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

March 4, 2020

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



HEARING DATE:

Friday, March 6, 2020 1:15 p.m.

PLACE:

Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in support of SCR38

Farm Link Hawai'i is a food hub that directly supports over 100 farmers, ranchers and producers throughout the state of Hawai'i. Since 2015, Farm Link's online marketplace and delivery service have been making it easy to support local farms. Farm Link currently delivers to commercial buyers, including Foodland and Whole Foods Market in addition to 100+ restaurants, caterers, and schools. We also allow household buyers to order for pickup at designated locations around O'ahu.

I am writing in strong support of SCR38 to establish a five-year food hub pilot program to increase access to local food. Food hubs operate on extremely thin margins. Establishing and growing a food hub require an extraordinary amount of capital and support to have a chance at survival. The proposed SCR38 would provide grant assistance to food hubs to reduce risk and increase their impact.

Farm Link Hawai'i has relied heavily on federal and state grants to launch and continue to scale. We would not exist without such assistance and are continually looking for additional support in order to reach financial viability. Please consider passing SCR38 to help us continue to do work to increase local food production and consumption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Barreca", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Barreca
Founder and CEO
Farm Link Hawai'i
rob@farmlinkhawaii.com
(808) 201-5252

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 8:51:14 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Witt	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union United - Haleakala Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

We need this in order to quit our dangerous dependence on the mainland for food.

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 9:14:47 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 12:15:09 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill J Mattos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The AinaPono program, which purchased local beef for the school lunch program was very successful. When we at Hawaii Beef Producers started supplying them with beef we saw an increase in buying of the local beef. We visited the school and the students were so happy to know that their parents were some of the Ranchers that was supplying the beef. They felt really a part of it all, buying local eat local.

I also found out that there was a deduction of wastage. They enjoyed the fresh beef.

I believe we can continue improving the process of procurement for local products through the AinaPono program, and will continue to benefit all the communities.

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 12:44:56 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NANCY JONES	Testifying for The Jones Family Farm-Waianae	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Strongly Supporting SCR 38

Aloha Senate Committee Members:

We present this testimony in strong support of SCR 38. Hawai'i desperately needs to increase its local food production and food security. Establishing the task force proposed by SCR 38 would not only assist local growers, food hubs and other stakeholders in increasing the amount of local produce grown, but also ensure that it finds a market with State agencies and other outlets. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to please adopt SCR 38 and ensure that such a Task Force becomes a reality. Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting SCR 38.

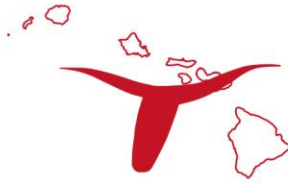
Warm aloha,

Nancy and Zeb Jones & 'Ohana

PO Box 1462

Waianae, HI 96792

Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

SCR38

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE STATE PROCUREMENT OF LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

Friday, March 6,, 2020, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports **SCR38**.

Hawaii's cattle producers aim to increase local beef that is grown and harvested in Hawaii. The Aina Pono program, which purchases local food for public school lunches, is an important driver in encouraging more production of local beef. By supporting local beef production, the state is investing in the ecosystem service benefits that come from Hawaii's beef production. These include carbon sequestration and reduced fire risk through well-managed grazing, management of invasive species, and preservation of open spaces that support habitats for endangered species.

Through a multi-stakeholder task force, we can improve the process of procurement for local products. This will ensure that cattle producers benefit from participating in programs to provide local food, and will benefit the wider community.

We **SCR38** and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Nicole Galase

Managing Director





LATE

Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 6, 2020 — 1:15 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SCR 38, Relating to the State's Locally Produced Procurement.

Dear Chair Thielen, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing freshwater and waste resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of SCR 38, which requests the Lieutenant Governor to convene a multi-stakeholder task force to advance state procurement of locally produced food.

Ulupono supports local food production for local consumption. Finding avenues to increase local food procurement within state meal programs is vital to support Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers with a consistent market while also improving the health and well-being of our community.

Over the years, there have been various groups that have attempted to make headway on farm-to-school or farm-to-state programs. For example, the Senate President's current efforts to procure local, fresh products for hospitals and schools on Kaua'i, have proven to be promising pilot demonstrations that can hopefully expand statewide in the near future.

Should this task force be formed, we recommend that it look into State agency buy-in to the Farm-to-State initiative. While this resolution calls for a multi-stakeholder approach at increasing local product procurement, the State institutions themselves will need to take on a larger responsibility to support such an effort. For example, this could be done through a policy or goal established through a department or agency's board of directors to support more local food procurement. This could serve as a guiding principle to influence overall adoption of the farm-to-state initiative and provide support to local producers and the community as a whole.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ☎ 808.544.8960 📠 808.432.9695 | www.ulupono.com



Ulupono would also like to see this task force address a specific goal for local food procurement in state institutions. Based on the pilot project for Mililani on O'ahu, which included the high school and two elementary school campuses, it is estimated that there is under 5% local food procurement in student meal programs. We suggest that the task force set a goal to reach a higher local food procurement percentage. For example, we believe that 20% local food procurement could be achieved by 2025. This resolution should seek to solidify a specific state institutional commitment for farm to state efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

LATE

SCR-38

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 9:05:34 PM
Testimony for GVO on 3/6/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Finley-Jacob	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With climate change severely impacting food production on a global scale, it is of the utmost importance that Hawaii takes steps to become more food sovereign. As a beginning farmer, I value the government taking steps to support people doing the work to feed our people. I am in support of this resolution.