



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

Date: 02/26/2021

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0443, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 443, HD1, which requires the Department to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the Department's food services and student meals program. The Department's School Food Services Branch (SFSB) is currently working on an inventory management system to include appropriate controls to provide greater oversight of funds expended by schools for the procurement of food.

Currently, schools have the authority to procure all foods needed to fulfill the needs of their menu through either the Federal Department of Defense program or vendors awarded by the Department.

The Department has concerns about instituting new systems to further decentralize the governance of the SFSB and student meal programs. SFSB currently does not have the capacity to ensure proper oversight of procurement if further decentralization were to occur.

Furthermore, funds are centralized within the SFSB. Giving schools greater authority in purchasing and decision-making over food services complicates the current process through which vendors are solicited and awarded contracts. Due to procurement processes and small purchase threshold limitations, the Department awards contracts

to vendors and distributors for schools to procure goods from.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this bill

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.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2021

11:00 A.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 443 HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 443 HD1. This bill would require the Department of Education (DOE) conduct cost analyses of measures meant to facilitate the greater utilization of locally grown agricultural products in school meals. Specifically, this measure would require the DOE to project cost and other factors associated with the following initiatives:

- Increasing the use of locally grown agricultural products in food services and student meals programs;
- Reducing reliance on imported agricultural products and other food imports for food services and student meals programs;
- Empowering complex area and school-level administrators with greater authority in purchasing and decision-making over food services; and
- Instituting new data and food service delivery systems necessary for decentralizing the governance of food services and student meals programs.



The Department supports the greater utilization of locally grown agricultural products in school meals, but otherwise defers to the DOE, as they would be the entity responsible for conducting the analyses contemplated by this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 26, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: BILL NO. 0443, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0443, House Draft 1, RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 0443, would require the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the Food Services and Student Meals Program in order to make recommendations on the ways in which the DOE can increase the use of locally-grown agricultural products.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

Over the past four years, HPCA has served as a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, and as such has joined the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0443, House Draft 1
Friday, February 26, 2021; 11:00 a.m.
Page 2

The HPCA also asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and the large number of people who wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a bill like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities.

The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to utilize more locally-grown food.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



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

February 26, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 443, HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Conference Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

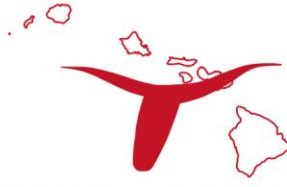
I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 443 HD1, which requires the department of education conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school program. A comprehensive cost study will help identify specific products that are needed for the DOE's food services. Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are ready to understand the opportunity and identify crops and other products that can be grown and produced for the Farm to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB443 HD1

RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

Friday, February 26, 2021, 11:00 am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB443 HD1** to conduct a cost analysis and increase local food purchasing. Ranchers support the Farm to School program and want to see it prosper, for both the health of our students as well as the health of our economy. We encourage the increase in local food purchasing to support Hawaii's ranchers and farmers, keep funds in the state, and encourage a habit for our students to eat and support local agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Position Statement on Local Beef Production

One of the core strengths of any society lies in its ability to be self-sufficient, to feed itself. Hawaii's beef producers are committed to providing wholesome food for its community that is safe, secure and sustainable.

For most of its existence, Hawaii's beef industry has followed a conventional model with production, harvest and processing occurring within state. In the early 1990's, a combination of rising costs and inefficiencies led Hawaii producers to shift to an export calf model which remains dominant today. However, with increasing consumer demand for locally sourced food, there is renewed focus on expanding local beef production. Several private labels have emerged over the last 10 years, raising the flavor and tenderness profile for local beef, further driving demand. The groundwork for expansion has been set.

In recent years, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognized limited harvest capacities as one of the primary constraints for expanding local beef production. It has been HCC's position that each island should have access to a full complement of harvest and processing facilities. The economic benefit of efficiencies achieved with consolidation should be balanced with the unique challenges Hawaii's beef industry faces. These include;

- the vulnerability of interisland transportation of perishable goods and/or live animals as it relates to;
 - food security and safety, animal welfare, affordable shipping rates, labor disputes and equipment failure
- the need to develop and maintain a diversified economic base and skilled labor force on outer islands
- limited competitive markets
- quasi-public responsibility of state-owned food processing facilities

Among other things previously identified (see attached, "A Livestock Harvest Facility for Hawaii"), the ideal model should address;

- Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership
- Increased capacity/access for all producers to harvest, process and market
- Growth of market share through "coopetition" vs direct competition
- Compliance with regulatory planning concepts and concerns, especially as related to environmental issues
- Preservation of the integrity of locally labeled beef
- Opportunity to expand locally branded products

Our producers continue to provide high-quality grass-fed beef year-round, which serves a loyal, sustainability-minded customer base that increasingly want to know where their food comes

from. HCC supports a business model that facilitates infrastructure that allows each island to maintain autonomy over its beef production from gate to plate.

A Livestock Harvest Facility for the State of Hawaii Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



Senate Bill 1257 provides \$1.5M for the planning and design of a livestock harvest facility within the state of Hawaii. This is an ambitious initiative that represents our strong belief in the future of our industry and our commitment to building infrastructure that will help grow and expand our local markets.

Our critical need for this project is based on the following;

- a. increased consumer demand for local beef
- b. increased market demand created by expanding programs, such as our schools' Aina Pono initiative
- c. availability for producers' strategic culling programs
- d. security for animal welfare in the face of disease or drought

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for planning and design should include the following key components and deliverables from firms who will respond;

1. An analysis of a viable business/feasibility plan that addresses expected throughput, revenues, expenses and return on investment related to the operation of a new facility. Our initial recommendation for Hawaii Island is for a 5,000 head capacity that can be expanded to 10,000 head/year. This will be varied island by island. We see this information as critical to attracting capital to our state and industry.
2. Schematics and drawings of the layout of a new facility that can be adapted to meet different environmental conditions for each island and can scale up or down to meet production needs.
3. Analysis and review of technologies to support the remote locations and sensitive environments in which this facility will operate.

4. Review of the following key features of the facility itself. These features will ensure that the proposed model will meet our goal of creating a facility that serves the sustainability needs of our industry addressed through these economic, social and environmental considerations.

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity (target steady state, initial, and ramp up) • Scalable/modular • Marketing partner • Added value/processing • Certification for specialty markets – i.e. export, BRC, GFSI • Management expertise • Transportation costs • Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership • Innovation and technology • Useful life • Potential for multi-species use • Scope of facility—slaughter, processing, and further processing capabilities • Value Added Products and Processing
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Worker safety • Animal well-being • Employee engagement • Central location • Affordable housing
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Waste disposal - bio digester • Water resources and requirements • Critical path for permits • Environmental Impact Statement • Air emissions/odor • Proximity to existing infrastructure and need for establishment of new connections to electrical, water, wastewater, and roadways.

HCC believes our industry and agriculture as a whole are at a critical crossroads. There is a great deal to be optimistic about including consumer demand for more locally sourced food, public officials who have declared a commitment to improve Hawaii’s food security, an advocate in our HDOA administration who believe in the need for Hawaii’s agriculture to thrive and people within the ranching community with the will to move our industry forward. These things combine to create powerful synergy to keep our industry and agriculture a vibrant and relevant part of our state’s economy and landscape. This project is the result of that synergy and a real, tangible move forward for the beef industry.

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 2:39:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee of Finance,

I represent an organization called Farm to Keiki which has supported the Farm to School movement in Hawai'i since 2010. Over the years I have been involved in the process of increasing local procurement in Hawaii's schools and strongly support this bill.

Purchasing locally grown foods for our school district comes with many challenges and this comprehensive cost analysis is needed to make Hawaii's farm to school efforts successful. The bill also empowers our complex administrators, providing them with greater purchasing autonomy, and therefore a more strategic position to procure locally grown foods than is currently allowed.

Purchasing locally grown foods for the school system is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen our communities, improve our children's health and benefit our environment. Resilient food system and healthy communities are essential for life. By funding this bill, we can move closer to these goals and further away from overdependence on imported foods.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tiana Kamen

Farm to Keiki, Founder and Author

HB-443-HD-1

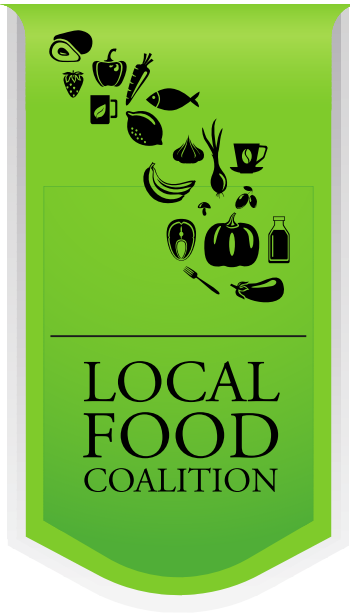
Submitted on: 2/24/2021 4:51:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Malama Kauaï	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very important bill to make progress with farm to school efforts that are critical to our food system.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 26, 2021 – 11:00 A.M. - Videoconference

RE: HB 443 HD1 - Relating to School Food Programs – In Support

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Land Use Research
Foundation of Hawai'i

Maui Farm to School
Network (Maui F2SN)

Ulupono Initiative

College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition (LFC) **supports** HB 443 HD1, which requires the department of education conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products.

The LFC supports efforts to increase locally grown food in school meals. Investing in our keiki's health by providing nutritious food and reducing reliance on imported agricultural products is a step in the right direction. HB 443 HD1 benefits students, farmers, ranchers, and the local economy.

The LFC is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 443 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 26, 2021 — 11:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 443 HD 1, Relating to School Food Programs.

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports HB 443 HD 1, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the Department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products.

Ulupono supports increasing local food within the DOE's school meal programs. As this measure suggests, developing a cost analysis of increasing locally grown food and reducing reliance on imports for meals programs will allow the DOE to support local food producers and provide fresh, nutritious meals for our keiki. We believe it is in the State's best interest to establish a baseline from which the DOE can make administrative decisions to increase locally grown food in our schools.

However, this effort should not preclude the DOE from moving forward with locally grown food procurement.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



February 23, 2021

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 443, H.D.1, Relating to School Food Programs (Requires the Department of Education [DOE] conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the DOE's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products; requires a report to the Legislature; effective 7/1/2050.)

Friday, February 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 308, via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 443, H.D.1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii. The bill demonstrates the need for, and benefit of collaboration amongst different sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

HB 443, H.D.1. The purpose of this measure is to require the DOE to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of its food services and student meals program in order to make recommendations regarding the ways in which the Department can increase the use of locally grown agricultural products.

LURF's Position. LURF understands that approximately one-half of the children in Hawaii public schools qualify for federally supported free and reduced lunch programs

and reside in households which are food insecure. Bill 443, H.D.1 would not only help Hawaii public school students, many of which do not eat the daily recommended allowance of fresh fruits and vegetables or whole grains, by promoting the consumption of healthy, locally grown food, but would also assist farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts such as that proposed by this measure significant to the conduct of their operations to help sustain their businesses, as well as to increase local food self-sufficiency and heighten local food production in this State.

Assuring incorporation and use of locally grown food into schools through school food programs will also assist by acquainting students to healthy local food options; developing an educated agricultural workforce; enriching the local food system through increased local food procurement for schools and institutions; and expanding the relationship between schools and agricultural communities.

As this Committee is aware, the unsustainable costs which have already been cast upon agricultural stakeholders over the past years by various safety and security standards, programs and regulations, as well as the enactment of onerous regulations relating to water systems, infrastructure, and growing and processing machinery and facilities, are now greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, proving to be overwhelming, if not devastating to the agricultural industry and the long-term objective of sustainable agriculture.

Agricultural stakeholders therefore believe HB 443, H.D.1 will assist in the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply and economic growth.

By promoting consumption of healthy food, recognizing the significance of assisting the local agriculture industry, and implementing efforts which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of HB 443, H.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



February 25, 2021

To: Chair Luke
Vice Chair Cullen
House Committee on Finance

RE: **SUPPORT for HB443 HD1**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB443 HD1**, requiring the department of education to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products.

Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

This bill will help to better understand the economic, social, environmental, and health benefits of including more local foods in school meals. It is well recognized that most U.S. youth do not meet the recommendation of eating 2.5 to 6.5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily,¹ but exposing more students to fresh produce can shift student's perceptions about healthy foods and influence eating behaviors, both in and out of the school environment.

This bill can substantially improve student diets while supporting our local agriculture community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB443 HD1**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

¹ National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB443 HD1

Friday, February 26th, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB443 HD1, and believes it will help save the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs while supporting our local farmers and helping our economy.

HB443 requires the department of education conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products. Requires a report to the legislature.

HB443 will also support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others which often are available at reasonable costs compared to other imported options.

By focusing on local relationships that "regionalize the menu," children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from.

These closer proximity relationships will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

Most importantly, HB443 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB443 to help grow our local food economy, and nourish our keiki.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



HIPHI Board

*Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Chair
KM Consulting LLC*

*Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
Immediate Past Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health*

*JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
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Research Office*

*Debbie Erskine
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Kamehameha Schools*

*Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Molokai Community Health
Center*

*Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula, PhD
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Native Hawaiian Health*

*Mark Levin, JD
William S. Richardson
School of Law*

*Rachel Novotny, PhD, RDN,
LD
University of Hawaii at
Mānoa, College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources*

*May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Pediatrics*

*Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawaii at Hilo,
Department of Kinesiology
and Exercise Sciences*

*Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente*

*Catherine Taschner, JD
McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP*

Date: February 25, 2021
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB443 HD1, Relating to School Food Programs
Hearing: February 26, 2021 at 11:00am in Conference Room 308

LATE

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB443 HD1**, which requires the department of education to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of the department's food services and student meals programs to, in part, increase the use of locally grown agricultural products, and requires a report to the legislature.

Hawaii'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawaii'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Forceⁱ and the Hawaii'i Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across Hawaii'i**.

Increased procurement of locally-grown and raised foods for consumption by Hawaii's students will have a positive impact on the health of children and youth and the development of sustainable food systems in Hawaii'i.

HIDOE's need for additional resources, personnel, and specialized expertise is apparent in order to fully realize the potential of farm to school, including the implementation of regionalized menus and procurement for school meals. **We encourage HIDOE and the State to partner with the [Center for Good Food Purchasing](#)** (which is already engaged locally through the "Transforming Hawaii's Food Systems Together" initiative) **by enrolling in the "Good Food Purchasing Program" and enlisting their expertise in true cost accounting.**

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school!

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** comprises of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawaii'i residents.

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:42:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB443.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:06:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

This bill benefits school children and their families as well as local farmers. The health of children can be improved by eating fresh produce and farmers benefit by having new markets for their produce. This relationship might even encourage some kids to become farmers. We should encourage the farm-to-school connection.

I do note, however, that the response from the DOE itself is negative. If the cost analysis is the stumbling block, perhaps a team of stakeholders needs to meet to resolve any issues.

I strongly support this bill (HB443 HD1) if it can be worked out between the parties involved.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas Aiea, Hawaii

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 6:23:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As I said about HB702, locally sourcing school food is good for schools, students, public health, farmers, local agriculture, and the local economy. We should be looking at all options to improve farm-to-school and other sustainable solutions. HB443 provides a clear directive and encouragement to move us in the right direction.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:05:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

this bill will help support our local farmers and state sustainability.

mahalo for supporting HB443.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:15:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would love for the schools to be able to support local farms and therefore support Hawaii to be more regenerative and self sufficient in its farming.

kids would learn more about local foods and connect to their environment in a different way.

and CO 2 emissions as well as plastic waste could be reduced, which is more than necessary!

Thank you for considering.

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:03:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I support HB442 HD1 for the following reasons:

This will help schools and communities enhance education, nutrition

- By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States
- Saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs
- Supports our local farmers
- Most importantly, it allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place/identity

Support this bill.

me ke aloha ‘Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:19:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mana Iketani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mana Iketani, and I am a junior attending Kalani High School. I strongly stand in **SUPPORT** of HB 443 HD1.

We, students, must have access to safe and locally grown foods. According to Randall Tanaka, assistant superintendent for the Hawaii State Department of Education's Office of Facilities and Operations, only 12% of produce products served in school lunches are from local farmers in the case of Mililani High School. Other products are imported from states such as California (52%) and Washington (36%). This fact acknowledges us that most foods that we eat at school are not fresh produce grown even though we have many local farmers and great crops grown on the islands. School lunches with locally grown foods will encourage us to maintain our health, learn about local farms and food, and enhance our learning ability and concentration span at school. DOE must conduct a cost analysis of buying more local foods for the betterment of students

Also, advancements in Hawaii's school lunch program are an essential measure to take during this COVID-19 Pandemic time when more students are suffering from insufficient food supplies and local farmers suffering from low profits. This bill will definitely mitigate their struggles that they are facing.

Please care about our lives by providing us healthier school lunches and support the local farmers in need of assistance during this pandemic. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mana Iketani

Student of Kalani High School

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:04:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

LATE

HB-443-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 11:00:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian Jahn, I live in Wahiawa, and I fully support HB443. I strongly believe the Farm to School program can help increase food security, the health of our keiki, and improve our communities economic standing over time. Mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian Jahn