

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:29:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dexter Kishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While I do support this bill, I also think the department will need the resources to effectively and efficiently do this. Do gather this data requires a systems change within the school food in hawaii, and may require additional resources (training, technology etc) to fulfill the requirements.

Thank you.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, February 5, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, 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, 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.

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.

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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0443
Friday, February 5, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

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 grow more food.

The HPCA understands that the State is experiencing its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and appreciates how difficult your job will be in deciding where very limited resources will go over the next two years. But to merely perpetuate the status quo will fail to address the underlying problems that created the situation that we currently find ourselves in.

We urge your favorable consideration of these bills.

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@hawaiipca.net.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:03:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janis Doe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:21:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahealani Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Food security begins with ensuring our younger generations are fed with highly nutritious foods.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

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.

Wednesday February 5, 2021, 10:00 am
VIA Video Conference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB443** 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

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:05:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ezikio Quintana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB443. DOE is often referred to as Hawaii's largest restaurant, and is an important market for local farmers. Local food is food which we as communities have relationships with and oversight on, and to include it in our schools would benefit farmers and students alike. This cost analysis will provide valuable information on how to impliment the sourcing of DOE meals locally.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:18:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to increase the production of locally grown food in the state to meet the goals of having Hawai'i more food secure and sustainable. What better way to do this than to ensure our keiki are eating from this aina.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:29:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please, a better food system for our Keiki. Mahalo

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:48:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharron Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill that 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.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:52:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Getting local food into our schools is a win-win. Our keiki benefit from nutritious foods and begin to better understand where their food comes from. Our farmers have an outlet for their crops. AND the environment wins -- the more food we can produce and consume here in our islands, the less fuel is used to bring food here, the less packaging is used, and the less waste is created. Please support HB443!

Thank you,

Kris Bordessa

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:59:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Epstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Roger Epstein and i'm a 50 year resident of Honolulu.

I am strongly in favor of this bill. With Covid and other economic changes, it has become increasingly clear that Hawaii must take some active measures to promote and improve sustainable agriculture in our State. This bill will help.

Mahalo and aloha, Roger Epstein

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:59:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB443 because I want the Department of Education to use locally grown food to the extent economically feasible.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:02:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Polli Oliver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

THIS IS AN INPORTNT BILL AND I SUPPORT IT'S PASSAGE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:25:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Dunville	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As we have learned during the pandemic and consequent transportation/distribution disruptions, now is the time to find ways to grow and bolster our local food systems. There is no reason we should be relying so heavily on imported food when instead we should be finding ways to become more self-sustaining. This is a great way to encourage the DOE to make choices that better benefit the health of the children it purports to serve as well as the health of the community and local economy.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:40:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Van Wishingrad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

[HB443](#) requires the DOE to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of its food programs and make recommendations on how to increase the use of locally grown food. This cost analysis bill is an invitation to the DOE to envision a better food system for our keiki.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:50:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for this bill! Mahalo Representatives.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:05:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Joan Gannon of West Hawaii ask you to vote yes for HB 443.

Thanks you

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:18:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Small	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:21:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Healthy food, grown here on our islands, just makes sense for the development of our keiki. They are vulnerable, our food system is vulnerable...let's strengthen them both!

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:29:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please also involve parents and students to develop meal plans. The amount of food waste at schools now is not supportable, either for students' well-being or fiscally.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:30:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

After seeing how other countries feed their school children, the US is an embarrassment. Our keiki are in the developmental stage and must be fed the healthiest food possible and with the current economic fiasco, school lunch may be the healthiest food they get all day. Don't get the idea they can be fed pizza, as there are actually those who believe the pizza is a vegetable because of the tomato sauce. The tomato is actually a fruit and by the time it's a sauce, it has no nutritional value whatsoever.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:35:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 supporters and members statewide, I write in support of HB443. The Department of Education increasing the use of locally grown food will provide a better food for our keiki

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:42:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will be a very good step to improve nutrition for our school aged keiki and support for local farmers.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:35:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April C McLean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Once upon a time, farming and sustainment of the ecosystem was passed down through generations, this ideology must return to our society. The future of the economy is uncertain and governing agencies should make all attempts at preserving food sources for its people. I also believe that this would be a great opportunity to offset the financial costs of 'shipping' in food from outside sources. I look forward to the testimony of the analysis performed by the DOE.

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 AGRICULTURE

February 5, 2021

1:00 P.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 443
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 443. 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.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:59:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This Bill takes a comprehensive look at the school food service of the Department of Education's 100,000+ lunches and 35,000+ Breakfasts served when students are in session at school. This would be a good time to conduct this analysis, I hope there is funds allocated for help gathering these complex metrics....

The two Farm to School pilot's at the Kohala complex and Mililani have gathered their own metrics and each program has learned a lot. This knowledge needs to be integrated into the final decision about what direction is best. Retraining cafeteria staff, menu planning, sourcing locally, farmer contracts, etc.

This type of program requires contracts with local farmers and food hubs to aggregate locally. But recently I am hearing the Department call for central kitchens and varied menu plans. Before anything is started it seems like the Department needs a clear idea of where they are going and why they are choosing this direction or that one.

I understand that procuring locally produced foods and integrating them into the meal service is the outcome, but getting there has proven difficult. The devil's in the details. But it's time to move forward with this conversion, at least begin to take steps in that direction with a whole new crew in School Food Services Branch.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, February 5, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Hashem 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, 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.

Ulupono supports increasing local food within the Department of Education'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 Department of Education can make administrative decisions to increase locally grown food in our schools.

However, this effort should not preclude the Department of Education 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

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:35:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The more locally produce food is provided for our keiki the better. This is great for our environment, our economy, and the health of our keiki. Please support this bill.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:19:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill!

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:15:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalona Leah Nani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge our representatives to support this bill as "Increasing the use of locally grown agricultural products in food services and student meals programs; is a necessary step to improve the quality of life for our Keiki and the community at large.

Mahalo!



February 3, 2021

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in Support of HB 443, 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.)

Friday, February 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 325 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** 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. This 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 children in Hawaii public schools qualify for federally supported free and reduced lunch programs and reside in households that are food insecure. Bill 443 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 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**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:24:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tia pearson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Besides looking for ways to save money by removal of DOE personnel, food sustainability is a better answer. Also, the amount of food that is shipped in and thrown away is mind boggling, Hopefully food grown here will be better tasting and have higher nutritional value since it wouldn't have had to travel to far to get to us. Food that is grown at the school by the students have a higher rate of being eaten as well.

This will also help our farmers and economy as well as encourage more food sustainability here

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:29:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Hawaii Farmers Union United Kona Chapter Board member	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for reading our testimony. We fully support this Bill for the obvious reasons of increasing nutrition in the Hawaii Public School system as well as the positive ripple effect for farmers in this state.

Mahalo,

Steve Sakala



February 3, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB443**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB443**, 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**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

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



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 5, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 443
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, 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, 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.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:31:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong SUPPORT of HB 443 because in these uncertain times of climate crisis, a global pandemic and tightened budgets, requiring Hawai'i's Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of its food programs would be money well spent by saving taxpayers money in the long run.

This pandemic has highlighted the fact that the food students on Department of Education campuses consume may well be their only complete meal throughout their day, therefore, I appreciate the content of this bill in exploring "introducing breakfast, snack, and supper programs that are connected to fresh, local farm produce." HB 443 would also require including recommendations on how to increase the use of locally grown food.

Mahalo for supporting this bill that will not only benefit Hawai'i students but our hardworking local farmers as well.

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:15:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please, support HB443. Hawaii needs food security.

HB-443

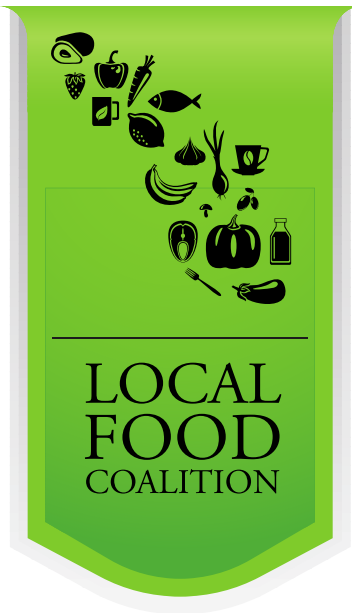
Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:31:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please, support HB443.



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
February 5, 2021 - 10:00 A.M. - Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 443 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. Requires a report to the legislature.

The LFC strongly supports all efforts made to increase the amount of fresh, local farm produce served in schools. Investing in our keiki's health by providing nutritious food in school, encouraging families to buy locally grown agricultural products and reducing our reliance on imported agricultural products are meaningful policy discussions. HB 443 is a step in the right direction.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

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

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

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:43:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The pandemic has laid bare how vulnerable the state is to food insecurity. Hunger has devastated the most vulnerable of Hawaii's people. Food banks cannot meet local needs. The SNAP program is all that stands between many of our keiki and going without. For developing young bodies and brains, this is a preventable tragedy. Hawai'i has 10 different climates and the potential to grow almost any type of crop. Importing most of the food supply instead of producing it here is a big part of the problem. Inappropriate land use vis a vis the needs of Hawaii's residents is another big part of the problem. Please vote YES on HB 443!

LATE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:49:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

LATE



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 4, 2021

Hawai`i SEED Supports: HB 443

House Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

We strongly support HB 443, Relating to School Food Programs.

The multiple beneficial aspects and outcomes that would be produced by requiring the Department of Education to examine the cost analysis of the school's food services and what is being served in the student meals programs would be highly beneficial.

Having a comprehensive report would show not only costs, but procedures such as where the food originates and from whom it is procured. We believe that changing the current model to a more localized sourcing would be beneficial to keeping our expenditures within the local economy. It may also find that it will bring long term benefits to expansion of locally grown food.

By increasing the need for farmers, equipment and associated production requirements, we are creating new jobs in a rapidly growing and highly beneficial industry.

The children deserve healthy, fresh foods that do not require importation and the associated carbon production in which we are all aware needs to be dramatically reduced. Updating and improving school meal procedures is would have lasting improvement to a daily system, year after year.

Beginning with a comprehensive cost analysis is the first step that will no doubt lead to a positive change , with rippling economic and social benefits.

We strongly support this important bill.

Mahalo,
Jeri Di Pietro, President

LATE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:35:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in support of HB443. I believe that this bill:

- Supports sustainable farming practices.
- Cover crops conserve soil and water and prevent runoff impacting nearshore reefs and fisheries.
- Cover crops build organic matter and improve soil health and nutrients.
- Reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers, saves farmers money in inputs.
- This kind of cover crop reimbursement program has been successfully implemented in other states and should be implemented here

Please vote in support.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

LATE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:10:56 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for suporting this bill which will help local farmers as well as our keiki.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

LATE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:20:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Schools in Hawai'i should provide local food to students. Not only would this stimulate business for local farmers, it would provide healthy choices for students. As an educator in a Hawaiian cultural program, I find that kids are more eager to learn when they've been able to eat enough fresh, nourishing food.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/05/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0443 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 443, 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 is currently working on an inventory management system to include appropriate controls that provides a 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 School Food Services Branch and student meal programs. The School Food Services Branch currently does not have the capacity to ensure proper oversight of procurement if further decentralization were to occur.

Furthermore, funds are centralized within the School Food Services Branch. 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.

LATE

HB-443

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:23:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/5/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahana Foundation	Kahana Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Kahana Foundation Supports HB443.

Mahalo.