



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

**Date:** 03/17/2021

**Time:** 03:10 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Government Operations

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0515, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the auditor to audit the department of education's school food services branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 515, HD1 to have the State auditor conduct an audit of the School Food Services Branch to determine the amount of local produce being purchased and served to students.

The School Food Services Branch is currently performing its own internal audit to evaluate the amount of local produce purchased since the 2019-2020 school year. Evaluating the prior year's procurements will assist the Department with assessing baseline amounts of local produce purchased prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021 — 3:10 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 515 HD 1, Relating to School Food Programs.**

Dear Chair Kidani, Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

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 515 HD 1**, which requires the State Auditor to audit the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students.

Ulupono supports increasing local food within the Department of Education's school meal programs. 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. We recommend adding further information to this audit to include detailed metrics similar to the annual report listed in HB 767. This audit should not preclude the Department of Education from moving forward with locally grown food procurement goals and objectives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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March 17, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 515, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Conference Room 229  
3:10 PM

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Moriwaki, Vice-Chairs Kim and Dela Cruz, 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 HB 515, HD1**, which requires the auditor to audit the department of education's school food services branch to determine how much local produce is being purchased and served to students.

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

In previous sessions, when bills were introduced to remove the local agriculture preference and to return to exempting locally-grown agricultural products from the procurement code, HFB has requested clear metrics to help determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption.

Product purchase data help increase the purchase of more locally-grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products for our Farm to School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-515-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:51:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/17/2021 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I believe that it would be truly beneficial to know how much of student lunches are from local farmers. I think it will open many eyes to see that maybe nothing is even locally sourced and that we should change that. I think parents should know where their child's food is coming from and I think they would appreciate knowing that it is locally grown here on this island. Knowing this information can also push to support local!