



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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

House Bill 515, House Draft 1, Proposed Senate Draft 2, Relating to Education

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

The Board of Education ("Board") opposes HB515 HD1 Proposed SD2, which would require the Board to prioritize candidates for the superintendent of education position with certain minimum qualifications and establish a desired qualification.

The Board opposes proposed legislation that restricts its ability to hire and effectively manage and oversee the superintendent.

The Board respectfully disagrees with both the content and principle of this measure. This is essentially the Legislature dictating a management function over which the Board clearly has authority and responsibility as envisioned by the State Constitution. Further, while requiring superintendent candidates to have at least ten years of experience in a department of education would not have prevented the Board from hiring its current superintendent, it would have prevented the hiring of previous, long-serving superintendents and limits the candidate pool for a position that already has a difficult time recruiting strong candidates.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Payne
Chairperson, Board of Education
Chairperson, 2021 Legislative Ad Hoc Committee



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

LATE

Date: 04/09/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0515, HD1, SD2 Proposed RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Part I - 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. Part II - Requires that the board of education prioritize for the superintendent of education position candidates that have the minimum qualification of ten years of employment in a department of education with at least five of those years serving in the capacity as a principal or higher and a desired qualification for a candidate is having a working understanding of the State's tri-level system of educational administration. (Proposed SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of Part I of HB 0515, HD1, Proposed SD2 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 Department defers to the Board of Education regarding Part II of this bill.

The School Food Services Branch is currently performing its own internal audit to evaluate the amount of local produce purchased beginning with 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.



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April 9, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 515, HD1, SD1, PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Conference Room 211
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 Part I of HB 515, HD1, SD1, Proposed SD2, 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. We take no position on Part II.

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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, April 9, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports Part I of HB 515 HD 1 SD 1 Proposed SD 2, Relating to the Department of Education.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 Part I of HB 515 HD 1 SD 1 Proposed SD 2, which, in Part I, 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 Part I of this measure which aims to increase 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

HB-515-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:11:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Having an audit on the department of education's school food branch will help determine how much produce is being locally sourced. This will really put it into perspective that our schools would rather source there food elsewhere rather than locally. Since COVID-19 it has become so important to support local businesses. With this bill it may be eye opening and hopefully our schools will move towards sourcing there food from our local farmers instead.

HB-515-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:01:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trinity Woodward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz of the Ways and Means Committee.

Subject: House Bill HB515 Relating to The Department of Education

Hearing Date: April 9, 2021

My name is Trinity Woodward, and I am testifying in support of bill HB515.

This bill will help students in many ways for the following reasons. In the US, overeating is a problem. Overeating can lead to unwanted weight gain, and can even cause chronic health problems in the future. If the DOE of the school food services branch determines how much local produce is being purchased, and how much is being served to students, it will make sure students are not overeating. It may lower the risk of unhealthy habits and chronic health problems. Enough food should be served so that they feel satisfied.

Trinity Woodward

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