



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

Date: 02/04/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0515 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 515 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 it's own internal audit to evaluate the amount of local product purchased since the 2019-2020 school year. Evaluating the prior year's procurements will assist the Department with assessing baseline amounts of local produce purchase 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.

HB-515

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:12:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 mindset. 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.

HB-515

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:10:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. With this bill we will have a better understanding of how much food is being locally sourced. That way parents can also know where their child's food is coming from.

HB-515

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:26:25 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Comments: How much does an auditor cost? Isn't the data already available from schools?