



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 0702, HD2 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL
PROCUREMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 702, HD2 to facilitate an increase in locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii. The Department will require operational and system changes to successfully implement the mandates of this measure as currently drafted, particularly as it relates to internal procurement processes.

Establishing a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products will require close coordination between the Department's Office of Facilities and Operations and the Office of Fiscal Services to ensure compliance with both federal and state procurement requirements. The Department must ensure that the adoption of new rules affecting procurement do not violate any current statutory or administrative regulations that may put existing funding sources in jeopardy.

Equally critical to note are factors that are beyond the Department's control that affect its ability to procure locally grown products, such as fluctuating market conditions that dictate supply and price factors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. 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 VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 702 HD2
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 702 HD2, relating to farm to school procurement. This bill would require the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. The department supports the further incorporation of local agricultural products into State-run institutional food service programs but defers to the department of education on the operational impacts of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HB702 HD2
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT
Ke Kōmike Hale o ke ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā

Pepeluali 26, 2021

11:00 a.m.

Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB702 HD2, which would allow the Department of Education (DOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed, locally grown and locally raised food products.

OHA appreciates that this measure supports the DOE’s Farm to School Initiative of 2015, enacted as Act 218 of that year, and now called the ‘Āina Pono Program. The program’s mission is to source and serve high quality, nutritious meals by maximizing fresh and local foods as much as possible, encouraging scratch cooking, tapping into local culture and tradition, and supporting school gardens that connect students with the origins of their food.¹

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies that can reduce health and social inequities of Native Hawaiians, including the disproportionately higher incidents of chronic health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease as well as the higher rate of cancer within the Native Hawaiian community.² Accordingly, OHA appreciates that this measure may help to incorporate a healthy diet as a standard experience for Hawai‘i’s school children, including the substantial number of Native Hawaiian students in our public school system, and instill in them good eating habits from a young age. OHA notes that health professionals have indicated that a healthy diet can prevent or treat chronic illnesses and that this measure will accordingly benefit the overall health of Hawai‘i’s keiki into their adult lives.³

Additionally, OHA has also sought to contribute to our islands’ agricultural self-sufficiency, and notes that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has further highlighted

¹ See Hawai‘i State Department of Education, ‘Āina Pono Programs, <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Offices/FacilitiesandOperations/SchoolFoodServices/f2s/Pages/default.aspx> (last accessed Feb. 25, 2021).

² Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Native Hawaiian Data Book, <http://www.ohadatabook.com/> (last accessed Feb. 25, 2021).

³ Centers for Disease Control National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Poor Nutrition, <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/nutrition.htm> (last accessed Feb. 25, 2021).

the need for sustainability and the importance of locally-produced food. By minimizing barriers to the purchase of locally grown food by DOE schools statewide, this measure will address the disconnect between our schools' and students' need for fresh food while creating for the farmers of Hawai'i a predictable market for their products.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB702 HD2. 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: HOUSE BILL NO. 0702, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL
PROCUREMENT.**

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. 0702, House Draft 2, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT., and House Bill No. 0767, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 0702, would exempt the purchase of goods and services by the Department of Education (DOE) for food programs at public schools and incorporate geographic preference for unprocessed locally-grown and locally-raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers. This bill would also allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

The 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. 0702, House Draft 2
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.

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 702, HD2
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

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 702, HD2, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawaii products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code.

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

In 2009, the State enacted ACT 175 which gave Hawaii agricultural products a price preference and included Hawaii agricultural products under the State's procurement code. HFB believed that agricultural producers' price preference for bidding presented a competitive advantage. This included enjoyment of the small business preference rule that permits an agency to identify certain contracts for competition among small businesses or requires a large business to subcontract with small businesses to provide the products. We believed that the preference helped cultivate a level playing field with out-of-state bidders and created additional market opportunities for Hawaii's farmers and small businesses.

HFB suggested the changes because farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state supply contracts. During our involvement with this process, it became

clear that education at all levels, not just within our group of farmers and ranchers, but even within the procurement office, as needed. Although HFB attempted to move everyone in this direction, the training was never accomplished.

In previous sessions, there have been measures proposed to remove the preference and ease the process required for governmental bodies to acquire local agricultural commodities by exempting Hawaii agricultural producers from the procurement code. This would change the current code back to where it was before HFB's requests to the Legislature modified the language, resulting in the current code. When bills were introduced that would revert 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.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible. Providing to the entire school system is not. The focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should also be a priority.

The proposed geographic preference will provide the flexibility that should help increase the purchase of more locally-grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products for our Farm to School program.

HFB is committed to working with the department of education to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawaii farmers and ranchers to source more products for Hawaii's Farm to School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:31:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahina Paishon Duarte	Kanaeokana	Support	No

Comments:



February 24, 2021

TO: House Committees on Agriculture, Education, and Finance

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: HB702 HD2: RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Aloha Representatives:

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, is in support of HB702 for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. HB702 reflects a long term goal of our network schools to maintain 'ai pono (healthy eating) practices for our students and staff. Although some of our schools have made gains in this area, it is at the goodwill of cafeteria managers who are not required to do so.

As a Hawaiian education network, Kanaeokana’s mission is to collaboratively develop and strengthen a Native Hawaiian education system—built on a strong ‘Ā• Ielo Hawai‘i and ‘ike Hawai‘i foundation—to grow and sustain aloha ‘Ā• ina leaders.

Beyond the direct, positive impacts of consuming unprocessed foods on students’ learning and well-being, this measure aligns with Kanaeokana’s goals to support ‘Ā• ina industries; small, local farms/growers, and distributors of these products. Creating a diversified, ‘Ā• ina-based economy is how we aloha ‘Ā• ina and move away from a single economy based on tourism.

Therefore, we strongly urge the House Committees on Agriculture, Education, and Finance to support HB702.

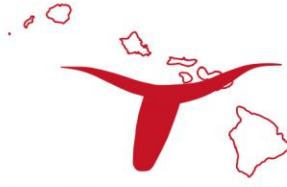
Me Ka ‘Oia‘i‘o

Mahina Paishon-Duarte, Co-Chair

Elena Farden, Co-Chair

KĀ• mike Advocacy

Kanaeokana Kula Hawai‘i Network



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB702 HD2

RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

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 HB702 HD2** relating to farm to school procurement. 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. Any processes that make purchasing local products easier is important to ensuring the program succeeds. There is a need for the procurement process to be streamlined. We are aware of several groups working towards supporting Farm to School and Farm to State, and the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council is participating in these efforts so that both purchasers and producers are educated in how to navigate procurement, and we can increase local purchasing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

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.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
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Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair*
Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schlif, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 26, 2021
TIME: 11am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB702 HD2 Relating to Farm to School Procurement

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Increasing the use of locally grown food in our schools has a range of benefits. Making sure that Hawaii's school kids to have access to fresh, healthy, Hawaii grown fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry, and meat is good for kids. Providing a stable, consistent, large scale buyer is good for our local farmers. This measure is a win win. We encourage you to pass it and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Bobby Farias
President
Hawaii Meats LLC
91-319 Olai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Re: HB 702, HD2
Friday, February 26, 2021, 11:00am
Conference Room 308
VIA Video Conference

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

My name is Bobby Farias, and I am the President and Partner of Hawaii Meats, LLC, a locally vertically-integrated ranch. I am writing in **support of HB 702, HD2** relating to farm to school procurement. 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. Any processes that make purchasing local products easier is important to ensuring the program succeeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Respectfully,

Bobby Farias
President, Hawaii Meats, LLC

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 4:54:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Malama Kauhâ€œi	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very important step to moving farm to school forward, and providing food security for our islands by supporting local producers. Our islands can feed our children if a concerted effort is made to do so.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 26, 2021 – 11:00 AM – Via Videoconference

**RE: HB 702 HD2 - Relating to Farm to School Procurement –
In Support**

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

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 School Garden
Network
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources - University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 702 HD2, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

This bill will help improve the procurement process for local food and support the DOE's Aina Pono programs, an effort to use more products from the local agricultural community in school meals. In addition to the health benefits for students, increasing locally grown and locally raised food products in school meals has economic benefits, providing a long-term revenue stream for farmers and ranchers.

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 702 HD2. 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 702 HD 2, Relating to Farm to School Procurement

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 702 HD 2, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Ulupono supports the DOE's Farm to School efforts and believes that adopting policies that further advance local food procurement in school meals is important for the success of the DOE's 'Aina Pono program. Based on the pilots performed at the Kohala Cafeteria Complex and the Mililani Cafeteria Complex, geographic preference can play a major role in increasing student meal participation, supporting healthy lifestyles, and connecting keiki and kupuna to local food. Sourcing from local, regional farmers may also help provide fresher, more nutritious options more efficiently with lower costs for procurement.

These pilots have been successful at modeling how local food procurement can be expanded to state institutional purchasing when there is buy-in across various state and local entities, community companies and organizations, and the overall community as a whole. This effort can be extremely important in supporting our local food production goals while also increasing the State's food security.

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 702, H.D.2, Relating to Farm to School Procurement (Requires the Department of Education [DOE] to adopt rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products; effective 7/1/2051.)

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. One of LURF's missions 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 provide testimony in **support of HB 702, H.D.2**, and to offer comments.

HB 702, H.D.2. The purpose and intent of this bill is to require the DOE to adopt rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products, thereby facilitating the increased use and consumption in schools, of locally grown and raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers and to allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider food programs and rules therefor such as those proposed to be adopted by this bill significant to the

conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe HB 702, H.D.2 will greatly assist with the effort to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply, economic growth, and disaster preparedness, including increased production of food for our schools. Assuring incorporation and use of locally grown food into school food programs will also assist by acquainting students to healthy local food options and stimulating their interest in agricultural careers.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of HB 702, H.D.2, which is to support agriculture and instigate further collaboration between the DOE and agriculture-related operations through effective procurement policies and procedures. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement measures 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 702, H.D.2**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:27:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Sobocinski	FoodCorps Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

I strongly support HB702! Local procurement at an institutional level provides a sustainable market for Hawai'i farmers, producers, and suppliers while increasing economic resilience and food security in the state. Additionally, locally-procured foods, fruits and vegetables in particular, have the potential to have positive impacts on the health of children in school.

Mahalo,

Jess



February 25, 2021

To: Chair Luke
Vice Chair Cullen
House Committee on Finance

RE: **SUPPORT for HB702 HD2**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB702 HD2**, requiring the Hawai'i State Department of Education establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food 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.

Our statewide school structure, stringent procurement policies, and unique geographies makes it exceptionally challenging for schools to source foods locally, despite the availability of fresh produce in many areas. This bill will help to better facilitate local food procurement, which is one of the top ways to make school meals healthier. 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 **HB702 HD2**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

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



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB702 HD2

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

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

HAPA strongly supports HB702 HD2, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to help address gaps and missed opportunities in our local food system, while supporting our farmers and food producers and our local economy.

HB702 requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. This measure will help schools and communities improve health education, nutrition and understand the value of sourcing local food.

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.

HB702 also saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs while supporting our local farmers and helping our economy.

Most importantly, HB702 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB702 to help grow our local food economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



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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 HB702 HD2, Relating to Farm to School Procurement
Hearing: February 26, 2021 at 11:00am in Conference Room 308

LATE

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB702 HD2**, which requires the department of education (HIDOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products, and exempts the department's food program from the Hawaii public procurement code (except for the provision relating to Hawaii products).

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 the islands.**

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.

It is apparent that certain federal and state procurement provisions are not being effectively put to use by HIDOE, and therefore we encourage collaborative inter-agency attention to this critical issue.

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-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 2:52:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee of Finance,

I represent an organization called Farm to Keiki, a Farm to School support organization with over 10 years of experience building the Farm to School movement in Hawai'i and nationally.

This bill will pave a path to more streamlined procurement and is necessary to propell Hawaii's farm to school efforts into a more well oiled system. The bill has many merits. It will ultimately have a positive impact of the health of our children. The bill also supports local food production, suppliers and a move toward more resilient local food systems.

It is important to note that while the requirement for key performance indicators and other monitoring parameters for the HIDOE is a positive one, extra funding support or personnel capacity may be needed to fulfil this.

Mahalo for your consideration to pass this bill,

Tiana Kamen,

Farm to Keiki, Founder and Author

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:00:33 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,

Bill HB702 benefits both Hawaii's children and Hawaii farmers. Keikis benefit by having healthier, locally-grown produce for lunch, and farmers get to tap into new markets: nearby schools. Additionally, relationships in the neighborhood grow stronger and some kids may grow up to be farmers.

This is a win-win. Please support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jan Pappas, Aiea, Hawaii

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:48:55 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,

Making local food the geographic preference for school food sourcing 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.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 6:58:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Help local farmers to flourish as part of an overall strategy to achieve food security.

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 6:24:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB702 HD2

Mark Koppel

Umauma, HI

Aloha Representatives:

✿ 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

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:02:40 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 HB702 HD2 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-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:17:35 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 **SUPPORT** HB 702 HD2.

What we eat makes a difference: to our health, our learning, and our local communities.

Locally grown and raised food products will support our healthy development by enabling us to eat safe and nutritious school lunches. It will also tighten our connection between local communities, encouraging us to understand more about agriculture in Hawaii and raising awareness of the preservation of local industries. Please utilize more locally grown products to our school lunches to support Keiki and the local farmers of Hawaii!

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Mana Iketani

Student at Kalani High School

Chair of the House Committee
Testimony for FIN

Bill Number: HB702 HD2

Hearing Details: 2/26/2021 at 11:00 AM.
Located in House Conference room 308 Via Videoconference.

Introduction:

My name is Dionne Rose. I am a student at Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. I am testifying in support of House Bill HB702 HD2, relating to the procurement of goods from local farms to local schools. This bill would improve the nutritional value of school meals while providing another income source for local farmers.

Content:

This topic of local, sustainable produce and the role nutrition plays in a healthy lifestyle for adults and children is critical. I have researched and learned a lot about the foods that are best for development in children—also the problems associated with processed foods, sugars, etc. As someone who can eat local, organic, healthy foods, I am aware that this is a luxury that many people cannot afford. Children in schools may come from households where proper nutrition is not practiced or within their budget. Also, some families are not educated in healthy eating. Children are at an age where their proper development is significantly impacted by what they eat. A lack of proper nutrition particularly affects Hawaii. By providing school meals from local farmers, they can considerably improve their diet while learning more about nutrition.

The other aspect that this bill impacts is the local agriculture industry. Local farmers struggle to compete with cheaper products shipped from the mainland. These farms create sustainable jobs for residents, utilize the land properly, and take some of the burdens off Hawaii's reliance on imported products. By providing these farms with another procurement stream, they will be more successful, will encourage others to participate in the agriculture industry, and help make Hawaii more self-reliant for food. With the impact that COVID-19 has had on the shipping challenges and loss of employment in other industries in Hawaii, it is all the more important to prioritize local agriculture.

Closing:

In Closing, I strongly support this bill to improve the relationship between local farmers and schools. Not only will this provide excellent nutrition for Hawaii's youth, but it will also educate the next generation on the importance of proper eating habits. In addition, the impact on the crucial agriculture industry in Hawaii would be very positive.

Dionne Rose
303-961-6362
PO Box 2030
Kamuela, Hawaii
96743

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:03:36 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.

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:07:32 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please support this important farm to school procurement bill. Requiring that 30% of foods served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030 is an admirable and achievable goal that will have a three-fold benefit to Hawai'i: It will boost the demand for local food, helping local farmers to expand production; it will increase the amount of fresh, healthy food our keiki consume, reducing long term healthcare costs; and it will keep more money circulating in our local economy, strengthening and sustaining our local economy as we diversify away from tourism.

It's high time we got a move on toward food justice and food independence, and the legislature needs to set benchmarks like this one and require state agencies like the DOE to take the lead.

Mahalo!

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:57:54 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 HB702. I have written several testimonies supporting different aspects of Farm to School and strongly believe this program can help increase food security, the health of our keiki, and our communities economic standing over time. Mahalo.

Me ke aloha,

Brian Jahn

HB-702-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 2:32:43 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please SUPPORT HB702 HD2!

Our education system should be part of connecting children and communities to their local food systems to build lifelong relationships with the aina that sustains us. This makes sense for so many reasons, costs, carbon emissions, physical and mental health, and overall community connectedness and well being.

Thank you,

Phaethon Keeney Honokaa HI