

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 EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2021
2:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 767 HD1
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 767 HD1, relating to the farm to school program. This bill moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education (DOE), and establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. The Department offers comments on this measure.

The Department strongly supports the Farm to School Program and is a committed partner in the effort to bring local agricultural products to menus at our public schools and in all State institutional food service programs through the farm to state program. The Department reaffirms its commitment to continue connecting farmers to the DOE and other state institutions, providing commodity information, and supporting local producers in obtaining and maintaining the food safety certifications required to provide food to our schools. The Department affirms the proposed statutory change in this measure because the Farm to School Coordinator position has existed at the DOE since 2018. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture defers to the Department of



Education on the feasibility of the goal of sourcing 30% of food served in public schools locally by 2030.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

Date: 02/16/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0767, HD1 RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. Establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Creates an annual reporting requirement. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 767, HD1 to move the Hawaii farm to school program (F2S) from the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to the Department and to establish a programmatic goal for the Department that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

In order to achieve the goal by 2030, the Department will need to determine the progress of F2S while housed at HDOA. This is a necessary step to determine a baseline of how much of food is currently locally-sourced in order to begin monitoring any movement to fulfill the goal of 30%. Additionally, the Department would like to acknowledge the unfunded mandate for a coordinator position for F2S within the Department in the measure's current draft. The Department respectfully requests dedicated resources and funding for staff to manage the relationships and targets as described in this measure.

The Department Office of Facilities and Operations School Food Services Branch fully recognizes the impact of purchasing local agriculture products and what it means to the

economic vitality of the state and the goal of a sustainable farm community. Thus, the Department will continue to improve and evaluate its business processes and practices to achieve a greater utilization of Hawaii-produced agriculture products.

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.



February 13, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB767 HD1**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB767 HD1, setting a programmatic goal that at least 30% of food served in Hawai'i public schools will be locally sourced.

Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawai'i 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.

Farm-to-school programs are greatly beneficial for youth; studies show that agriculture education, school gardens, and hands-on nutrition learning triples student consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunches¹ and increases access to low-fat fruits and vegetables at home.² In addition, we know that most U.S. youth do not meet the recommendation of eating 2.5 to 6.5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily.³ Exposing more students to fresh produce can shift student perceptions of healthy foods and influence eating behaviors, both in and out of the school environment.

This bill can help the families of Hawai'i enjoy healthier lifestyles, which is why Blue Zones Project strongly **SUPPORTS HB767 HD1**.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

¹ Koch, P., Wolf, R., Graiose, M., Gray, H. L., Trent, R., & Uno, C. (2017) FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University.

² Wells, N. M., Meyers, B. M., Todd, L. E., Henderson, C. R., Barale, K., . . . Franz N. K. (2018). The carry-over effects of school gardens on fruit and vegetable availability at home: A randomized controlled trial with low-income elementary schools. *Prevention Medicine*, 112:152-159.

³ National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 12, 2021

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Testimony in Support of HB 767, H.D.1, Relating to Farm to School Program (Moves the Hawaii Farm to School Program from the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to the Department of Education [DOE]; establishes a programmatic goal for the DOE that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030; creates an annual reporting requirement; effective 7/1/2050.)

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room 309, 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 767, H.D.1**, and to offer comments.

HB 767, H.D.1. The purpose and intent of this bill is to move the Hawaii farm to school program from the DOA to the DOE and establish a programmatic goal that at least thirty per cent (30%) of food served in public schools will be locally sourced by 2030.

LURF's Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider programs such as that proposed by this bill significant to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses. These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe HB 767, H.D.1 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; 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.

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 767, H.D.1, which is to increase consumption of locally grown food; instigating interest in agricultural careers; support agriculture and foster further collaboration between the DOE and agriculture-related operations. 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 767, H.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 767 HD 1, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Woodson 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 767 HD 1, which moves the Hawai'i Farm to School Program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education; establishes a programmatic goal for the Department of Education that at least 30% of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030; and creates annual reporting.

Ulupono supports the State's Farm to School efforts to implement local food into statewide meal programs and recognizes that there is a need to clarify programmatic responsibility within the Department of Education (DOE). While the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has housed the Farm to School Program since 2015, the dedicated coordinator position no longer exists in the DOA; rather, a farm to school coordinator now exists within the DOE. Placing the Farm to School Program within the DOE aligns the dedicated personnel with a formal program.

Ulupono would like to offer a few amendments for consideration that strengthen the overall farm to school meal goal. We recommend amending page 3, lines 6-9 to read as follows:

“(a) ~~To the extent practicable, the~~ The department shall meet the local farm to school meal goal that thirty per cent of food served in public schools consist of locally sourced products by 2030, as measured by the per cent of the total cost of food.”

Pilot projects in Kohala, Mililani and on the island of Kaua'i have been successful at modeling how local food procurement can be expanded when there is buy-in across

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



various state and local entities, community companies and organizations, and the overall community as a whole. By creating a goal-oriented approach to local food adoption in school meals, the State is making a statement to prioritize fresh, nutritious local food for students, support local farmers and ranchers, and achieve Hawai'i's local food production goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 16, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 767, HD1
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 767, HD1, which moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education, establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty percent of the food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030, and creates an annual reporting requirement.

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

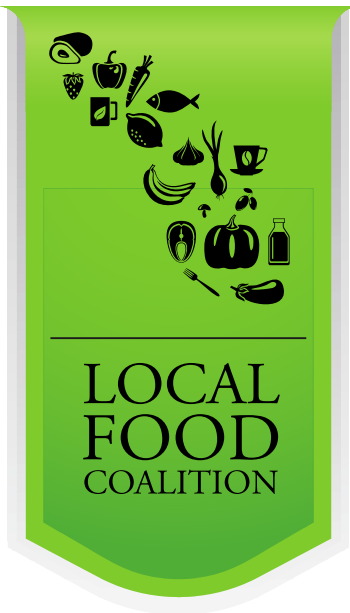
Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school program. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible. Providing to the 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. Many farmers and ranchers are ready to understand the opportunity and identify crops and other products that can be grown and produced for these markets.

HFB supports moving the Farm to School Program to the Hawaii Department of Education. HFB believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of

food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

HFB supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawaii's food security. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Farm to School is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to having well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawaii's agricultural industry in the future. We believe the DOE is better suited to implement all components of Hawaii's Farm to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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 EDUCATION
February 16, 2021 - 2:00 P.M. - Videoconference

**RE: HB 767 HD1 - Relating to the Farm to School Program -
In Support**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 767 HD1 which moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education, and establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

Farm to school programs support a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices. It's been 6 years since the adoption of Act 218 which established the Hawaii farm to school program. As of today, it's estimated that only 3% of food served in public schools is locally sourced. Our keiki deserve better. Increased access to fresh, local agricultural products is vital to the health, success and well-being of our keiki. Establishing a programmatic goal that at least 30% of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030 will promote healthy behaviors and help ensure an increase in the amount of local fresh food for our students.

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 767 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:38:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Kakazu	BEES>me	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Much progress has been achieved by the F2S Hui with new partners integrating their input, missions and networks. With guidance from the HIPHI and a consultant, circles (e.g. Food Systems, Procurement, Menus/Nutrition/Palette) have been established and the potential target populations served include hospitals and prisons. Because of this, some contributors are already referring to the scope of this group as "Farm to State". In the end, the critical state entities of the HIDOE and HDOA will continue to collaborate towards serving our keiki and community. I foresee further coordination by supporting this bill.

Mahalo

Sam Kakazu, HIDOE (retired), former farmer, former USDA Field Agent, Pollinator Advocate



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 16, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0702, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

HOUSE BILL NO. 0767, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, 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 1, 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.

House Bill No. 0767, would:

- (1) Transfer the Farm to School Program (Program) from the Department of Agriculture to the DOE;
- (2) Establish the Farm to School Coordinator position who would oversee the Program; and
- (3) Direct the Program to ensure that 30% of food served in public schools consist of locally-sourced products by 2030.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0702, House Draft 1, and House Bill No. 0767, House Draft 1
Tuesday, February 16, 2021; 2:00 a.m.
Page 2**

Both bills would take effect on July 1, 2050, to facilitate continued discussion on this issue.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program 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.

Support for agriculture is bold. Support for these bills in our time of crisis is bold.

We urge your favorable consideration of these bills.

Lastly, because both bills appear to complement one another, this committee may want to consider combining both bills into a single vehicle -- House Bill No. 0767, which appears to have a title broad enough to include the subject matter of both bills.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0702, House Draft 1, and House Bill No. 0767, House Draft 1
Tuesday, February 16, 2021; 2:00 a.m.
Page 3**

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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 14, 2021

To: House EDN Committee

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 767

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian “Ioane” Jahn and I am writing to express my support for HB 767 - Relating to the Farm to School Program. I am very concerned for communities in Hawai‘i with regard to food security, food sovereignty, and overall economic instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a strong advocate for the Farm to School Program, I feel that this is one area where we cannot fail as it deals primarily with the health, safety, well-being, and education of our keiki.

Setting goals based on a percentage of the overall budget, whether it expands or shrinks, is beneficial in helping to ensure the recirculation of state and federal dollars to local food producers and the local food system economy. Some of the affected places include processing centers, distributors, food hubs, and farmers who actively contribute to Hawai‘i’s food system resilience and sustainability. By supporting HB 767, we can help to ensure these businesses are being prioritized and financially supported, but most importantly, that our keiki have a responsibly-managed, fully-functional program that allows the Department of Education greater overall control.

By creating a real set of goals we can achieve a stable anchor point for Farm to School to have the best chance at success. Furthermore, if proposed goals are met by 2030, roughly ~\$33,000,000 of the DOE Food Service Purchasing budget--which comes from state tax dollars, as well as federal subsidies--will be harnessed and recirculated to local food producers and the local food systems economy; this will undoubtedly lead to greater food security for all Hawai‘i residents, and significantly increase our food system resilience.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai‘i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai‘i West O‘ahu’s Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

Me ke aloha,
Brian "loane" Jahn & the Food+ Interns

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Tuesday, February 15, 2021

House Bill 767
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Woodson; Vice Chair Kapela and members of the House Committee on Education:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in support of HB 767 which moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education and establishes a programmatic goal for the Department of Education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. .

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, breadfruit, etc.

Closer proximity relationships will reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the mainland.

Passage of HB 767 will create a mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers and thus will help grow our local economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jeff McKnight

Chair, Food Security and Agriculture Committee
Vice Chair., Environmental Caucus



HIPHI Board

*Kilikina Mahi, MBA
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KM Consulting LLC*

*Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
Immediate Past Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health*

*JoAnn Tsark, MPH
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Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office*

*Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
Kamehameha Schools*

*Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Molokai Community Health
Center*

*Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula, PhD
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Native Hawaiian Health*

*Mark Levin, JD
William S. Richardson School
of Law*

*Rachel Novotny, PhD, RDN,
LD
University of Hawaii at
Mānoa, College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources*

*May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Pediatrics*

*Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawaii at Hilo,
Department of Kinesiology
and Exercise Sciences*

*Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente*

*Catherine Taschner, JD
McCriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP*

Date: February 15, 2021

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Lydi Bernal, Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Re: SUPPORT for HB767 HD1, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Hearing: February 16, 2021 at 2:00pm in Conference Room 309

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB767 HD1 with recommended amendments**, which moves the Hawaii'i farm to school program from the department of agriculture (HDOA) to the department of education (HIDOE), establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030, creates a staff position for farm-to-school coordinator within the department of education, and creates an annual reporting requirement.

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 Force¹ and the Hawaii'i Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.**

The Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui has worked closely over many years with various offices within HIDOE (facilities/school food, curriculum/CTE, Hawaiian education, and community engagement) to advance a holistic approach to farm to school, which includes the three core elements of school gardens, education, and school food improvements through local procurement. **We fully support the formal establishment of a holistic farm to school program and coordinator position within HIDOE through this bill.**

We also truly appreciate HDOA's hosting of the farm to school/farm to state program to date, as well as their expressed commitment to continue partnering in the effort to bring local agricultural products to Hawaii's public schools and all State institutional food service programs.

Due to the immensity of the important work ahead (for example, as proposed in HB817 HD1 Relating to Agriculture, which requires *each* state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased

by that department is locally-grown), **we maintain the stance that a program and one or more dedicated coordinator positions are needed in both HDOA and HIDEOE.**

We therefore recommend that HB767 HD1 be amended on page 5, line 7 through page 6, line 7 to remove the strikethrough and update the statute relating to HDOA as follows:

“[141-11j Hawaii farm to state school program; farm to state school coordinator. (a) There is established within the department of agriculture a Hawaii farm to state school program. The purpose of the farm to state school program shall be to:

- ~~1. Improve student health;~~
- ~~2. Develop an agricultural workforce;~~
3. Enrich the local food system through the support and increase of local food procurement for the State’s public schools and other institutions.;
- ~~4. Accelerate garden and farm based education for the State’s public school students; and~~
- ~~5. Expand the relationships between public schools and agricultural communities.~~

(b) The Hawaii farm to state school program shall be headed by a farm to state school coordinator who shall work in collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders to address the issues of supply, distribution, demand, and procurement, ~~and consumption~~ of Hawaii grown foods in state facilities, ~~primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.”~~

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school!

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal
Hawai'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 Hawai'i residents.

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'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.



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Monday, February 15, 2021

Re: HB767 Relating to the Farm to School Program

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in SUPPORT of HB767** which will move the Hawai'i Farm to School program from the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to the Department of Education (HIDOE), establish a programmatic goal for the Department of Education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030, create a staff position for farm-to-school coordinator within the Department of Education, and create an annual reporting requirement.

More specifically, I SUPPORT this bill with the following amendments:

- 1) Keep program in HDOA (in addition to adding to HIDOE),
- 2) Change HDOA program name from "farm to school" to "farm to state," and
- 3) Set a goal relating to school gardens/ education in addition to the goal relating to school food.

We formed the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative (HUC) in 2016 to build a network of small-scale, diversified farms that grow breadfruit and want to improve community access to this amazing, nutritious, local, sustainable and culturally significant food. From 2018 to 2020 we were a primary local supplier for HIDOE's 'Aina Pono program, providing minimally processed sweet potatoes, bananas, green papayas, and 'ulu to all 256 public schools statewide. We established a relationship and worked with Y. Hata – HIDOE's frozen foods vendor – to enable this partnership to succeed. During this time period, breadfruit transitioned to be not only a "special" Harvest of the Month menu item but also a regular part of the school lunch cycle in school year 2019-2020. While we have been disappointed that DOE has not responded to our efforts to resume this partnership since the pandemic began last March, we firmly believe in the program and that a goal of 30% locally sourced food by 2030 is achievable. *We are living proof that farm to state is possible and that it can have significant benefits for small family farmers in Hawaii.*

As general manager of HUC, one of my most memorable and gratifying experiences was standing in a supermarket in late 2019 handing out samples of 'ulu when a school-aged boy excitedly ran up to my booth and told his mother how much he knows about and loves 'ulu *because he ate at in school.* The impact that farm to school has on Hawai'i's youth and indeed, on the future of our island state, is immeasurably important to our food security, native Hawaiian cultural perpetuation, the preservation of working agricultural lands, vitality of our rural communities, and



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com

our long-term environmental, social and economic resilience. We therefore strongly support this bill with an ammendment to retain the program in HDOA because a having a dedicated statewide **farm to state** coordinator is essential to oversee and support the major effort of HB817.

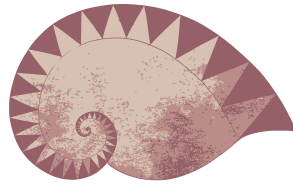
If you have questions regarding HUC's support, please contact me at (808) 238-8869 or by email at info@eatbreadfruit.com.

Sincerely,



Dana Shapiro, General Manger





Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Monday, February 15, 2021

Relating to the Farm to School Program
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

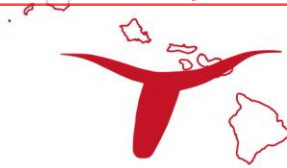
The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB767 Relating to the Farm to School Program**. This measure moves the Hawaii Farm to school program to the Department of Education and sets a goal of 30% of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

This measure would substantially help local farmers and local food producers. This would help to keep jobs and money on our islands while also increasing the fresh produce available to our keiki.

For these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

HB767 HD1

RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB767 HD1** to establish a goal that at least 30% of food served in public school shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. 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.

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 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-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 12:48:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our kids deserve to eat better. Additionally, This bill could lead to potentially millions of dollars will be recirculated to local food producers and throughout the local food systems economy

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 2:06:09 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hey gang give um.

Aloha

Kevin

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 2:17:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Kissida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature,

I support the HB767 HD1 Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Meals (DOE & DOA) as it brings together the Department of Education and Department of Agriculture. We have learned the importance of supporting local agriculture and business from the pandemic. This bill would help further push the state to move towards a sustainable model as well as provide more resources for our community, especially our keiki, to learn about agriculture and where our food comes from.

HB767 HD1 - Moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. Establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Creates an annual reporting requirement.

Considering the work and innovation this may require there will be positive growth in the public, private, and education entities. I can only imagine what this would do for our Kauai's Koa'e's Farms LLC North Shore Food Hub and the educational outreach possibilities for Kauai's keiki in Kilauea and all around the island. Just imagine the possibilities for keiki on other islands such as Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i and Oahu.

Mahalo for your support,

Jonathan Kissida, teacher at Kilauea Elementary on Kauai,

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 8:20:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

COVID was a wake-up call on how vulnerable we are, and how unworkable our economy is, when our food comes from far away. Please support this bill.

mahalo,

Cory Hardn

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:19:29 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha lawmakers,

Please support this bill. It makes sense, as it supports local farmers, and the nutrition of our children in schools. It's a win-win! Mahalo!

Sherry Pollock

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:25:57 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good idea.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:28:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

in strong support

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:57:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 1:39:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Whatever we can do to support and strengthen our food system, we should. This is a great way to do it and a wonderful way to provide more nutritious food to our keiki.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 3:15:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanna Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support feeding locally sourced food in our schools. What we get out of our young people in the future is only as good as what we put in them.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 4:24:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Swift	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must put in place this mandate and fund a group of growers to oversee making it happen in DOE.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 4:32:31 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 8:07:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 9:50:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

aloha,

please support this bill to move the Hawaii farm to school program from the DOA to the DOE with a goal that 30% of the food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:41:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi Joan Gannon from West Hawaii here. Please vote for HB767. This moves Hawaii Farm to School Program fromDOA to DOE. Sets goal from 30% of food served be locally sourced products by 2030. This is so important to support farmers and for the health of the students.

Thank you

Joan Gannon

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:49:08 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:53:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support HB767!

Having experienced the non nourishing, uninspiring canned, highly processed and frozen food first hand as a local kid here in our public schools, as a volunteer to help families in need of food for our public schools, volunteer to assist public school teachers in class and as a community organizer I help hui with gardeners and farmers to get food to those in need. For years it has made me feel, a full circle lesson is necessary for ALL public education. The STOP for action is that our FDA approved vegetable washing facility is far away. That is the only hurdle to enable us to give fresh harvest to our local public school. How shortsided is that when we are surrounded by farmers.

Bigger vision for our Hawai'i's future. If we invest in public school gardens, local farmers markets, cleaning facilities onsite and equipment to expedite processing time we could instil nourishment for their brains and bodies, teach them how to respect nature and food. Give them a sense of pride in the place they are from. Instill the passion to protect our land for many generations to come.

This to me supports the local economy, boosts education in public schools, boosts health and wellness through good habits and creates advocates of our aina.

Aloha

Maki

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:10:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:29:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good idea. I wish it could give preference to organically grown foods too.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:45:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB767 and would love for my students to be nourished by local produce when they come to school.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:19:05 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian "loane" Jahn and I am writing to express my support for HB 767 - Relating to the Farm to School Program. I am very concerned for communities in Hawai'i with regard to food security, food sovereignty, and overall economic instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a strong advocate for the Farm to School Program, I feel that this is one area where we cannot fail as it deals primarily with the health, safety, well-being, and education of our keiki.

Setting goals based on a percentage of the overall budget, whether it expands or shrinks, is beneficial in helping to ensure the recirculation of state and federal dollars to local food producers and the local food system economy. Some of the affected places include processing centers, distributors, food hubs, and farmers who actively contribute to Hawai'i's food system resilience and sustainability. By supporting HB 767, we can help to ensure these businesses are being prioritized and financially supported, but most importantly, that our keiki have a responsibly-managed, fully-functional program that allows the Department of Education greater overall control.

By creating a real set of goals we can achieve a stable anchor point for Farm to School to have the best chance at success. Furthermore, if proposed goals are met by 2030, roughly ~\$33,000,000 of the DOE Food Service Purchasing budget--which comes from state tax dollars, as well as federal subsidies--will be harnessed and recirculated to local food producers and the local food systems economy; this will undoubtedly lead to greater food security for all Hawai'i residents, and significantly increase our food system resilience.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:40:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Setsuko Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support HB767!

Having experienced the non nourishing, uninspiring canned, highly processed and frozen food first hand as a local kid here in our public schools, as a volunteer to help families in need of food for our public schools, volunteer to assist public school teachers in class and as a community organizer I help hui with gardeners and farmers to get food to those in need. For years it has made me feel, a full circle lesson is necessary for ALL public education. The STOP for action is that our FDA approved vegetable washing facility is far away. That is the only hurdle to enable us to give fresh harvest to our local public school. How shortsided is that when we are surrounded by farmers.

Bigger vision for our Hawai'i's future. If we invest in public school gardens, local farmers markets, cleaning facilities onsite and equipment to expedite processing time we could instil nourishment for their brains and bodies, teach them how to respect nature and food. Give them a sense of pride in the place they are from. Instill the passion to protect our land for many generations to come.

This to me supports the local economy, boosts education in public schools, boosts health and wellness through good habits and creates advocates of our aina.

Aloha

Setsuko Morinoue

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 1:43:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen K Nanni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

I strongly support HB767:

Having experienced the non nourishing, uninspiring canned, highly processed and frozen food first hand as a local kid here in our public schools, as a volunteer to help families in need of food for our public schools, volunteer to assist public school teachers in class and as a community organizer I help hui with gardeners and farmers to get food to those in need. For years it has made me feel, a full circle lesson is necessary for ALL public education. The STOP for action is that our FDA approved vegetable washing facility is far away. That is the only hurdle to enable us to give fresh harvest to our local public school. How shortsided is that when we are surrounded by farmers.

Bigger vision for our Hawai'i's future. If we invest in public school gardens, local farmers markets, cleaning facilities onsite and equipment to expedite processing time we could instil nourishment for their brains and bodies, teach them how to respect nature and food. Give them a sense of pride in the place they are from. Instill the passion to protect our land for many generations to come.

This to me supports the local economy, boosts education in public schools, boosts health and wellness through good habits and creates advocates of our aina.

Aloha nui loa,

Eileen Kiyoko Nanni

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:38:54 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. This is good for our keiki, our communities, and our farmers.

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville, Kauai

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 4:24:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB767. Thank you.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:18:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Many families rely on school lunches for their children. Sourcing more food from local sources addresses food insecurity in our communities by making sure everyone - including those who need it most - can regularly benefit from healthy, culturally appropriate, and nutritious food.

I support this effort to make farm-to-school lunches a bigger part of Hawaii schools.

Mahalo.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:21:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an employee of the DOE, I strongly support this measure. Our keiki need to eat more healthy options in schools and also this is a great opportunity to support local farms.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:46:42 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 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. I believe that if Hawaii has a farm to school program it will help both our farmers and schools. This will help our local farmers to have a consistent production and less competition with wherever our schools are currently getting their food from. It would also be smart to know where schools are receiving their food from and knowing that it is local might give parents a peace of mind of what their children are eating.

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:51:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EDN Committee,

Please encourage the Farm-to-School connection. It benefits both parties immensely and makes for a healthier Hawaii.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

HB-767-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 1:40:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Herndon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. The only negative in my opinion is the time estimated for this measure to take effect; 2050 seems like too long for the status quo to be maintained! I applaud the concept of transferring the Farm to School program from DOA to DOE, strengthening the meaning of "Aina" - that which feeds us- as well as building a connection to our youth between the land and our food source for the future. I believe it can provide a mechanism by which the Keiki of Hawaii are encouraged to have a more active role in the process of growing what we eat here in the Islands. Thirty percent of food served in the Hawaiian school systems seems like a very reasonable, though modest, goal to envision.

Mahalo for hearing this bill. It will serve many purposes in it's fruition.