



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

Date: 04/01/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 4/01/2021 9:30 AM

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0767, HD2, SD1 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 percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Creates an annual reporting requirement. Effective 7/1/2051. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0767, HD2, SD1 to move the Hawaii farm to school program (F2S) from the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture 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.

To achieve the goal by 2030, the Department will need to determine the progress of F2S while housed at Department of Agriculture. This is a necessary step to determine a baseline of how much food is currently locally sourced in order to begin monitoring any movement to fulfill the goal of thirty percent.

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's 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.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

APRIL 1, 2021

9:30 A.M.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**HOUSE BILL NO. 767 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairpersons Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 767 HD2 SD1, 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 is committed to 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 supports 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.



Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Youth Commission

IN SUPPORT OF HB767 HD2 SD1

April 1, 2021

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Shwe Win
And Commissioners of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission

I speak on behalf of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission (HiYC) in expressing my support for HB767 HD2 SD1. The HiYC was formed to “advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth” [§352D-11]. The 15 Youth Commission members (ages 14 – 24) are appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House.

The Farm to School program fosters invaluable relationships between youth and local agriculture communities, which in turn strengthens and empowers the next generation of farmers and local consumers. Additionally, the program’s garden and farm-based education promotes healthy lifestyles in Hawai‘i youth through expanding access to fresh, local agricultural products.

The HiYC wholeheartedly supports the Farm to School program and this bill in its efforts to improve the program. As a public school student, I am deeply concerned about the carbon footprint of DOE meals. The current percentage of locally sourced produce in our public school meals is gravely insufficient to ensure sustainability. HB767 HD2 SD1 would establish a programmatic goal — that $\geq 30\%$ of meals consist of locally sourced products by 2030 — crucial to increasing the sustainability of DOE meals and expanding students’ access to fresh, healthy foods.

For these reasons, the HiYC urges the Committee to pass HB767 HD2 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,
Shwe Win



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 1, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0767, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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. 0767, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

As received by your Committee, 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.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2051, to facilitate 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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0767, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1
Thursday, April 1, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

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 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.

For many families, the only consistent meal that children receive is at school.

If a larger portion of the food consumed by schools is locally grown, this will help to diversify our economy and improve the sustainability of our State. This in turn will put Hawaii in a stronger position to address the next global pandemic when it comes.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

April 1, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 767, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 211
9:30 AM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 767, HD2, 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 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. 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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 1, 2021 – 9:30 A.M. – Via Videoconference

RE: HB 767 HD2 SD1 - Relating to the Farm to School Program – In Support

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

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 767 HD2 SD1, 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 food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030, and creates an annual reporting requirement.

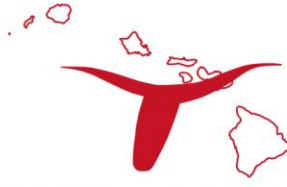
Farm to school programs support a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices. It's been six years since the adoption of Act 218 which established the Hawaii farm to school program. As of today, it's estimated that only 3% of food served in public schools is 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.

As noted in the most recent committee report, we strongly support the inclusion of geographic preferences in procurement, inclusion of food hubs, and other localized strategy.

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 ask for your favorable consideration in passing HB 767 HD2 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB767 HD2 SD1

Relating to the farm to school program

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

VIA Video Conference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB767 HD2 SD1** 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.

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.



March 26, 2021

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of HB 767, H.D.2, S.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 7/1/2051.)

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:30 a.m., in Conference Room 211 & 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.2, S.D.1**, and to offer comments.

HB 767, H.D.2, S.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 that support the promotion and consumption of healthy, locally sourced food products significant to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses.

These landowners and agricultural stakeholders believe HB 767, H.D.2, S.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 the DOE's 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.2, S.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.2, S.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB767 HD2 SD1

Thursday, April 1st, 2021 9:30 am

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

HAPA strongly supports HB767 HD2 SD1, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to help address gaps and missed opportunities in our local food system, while supporting our local farmers and food producers, as well as our economy.

HB767 moves the Hawai'i 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.

HB767 creates a mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers which helps schools and communities improve health education, nutrition and understand the value of sourcing local food. The more we source local foods for schools and other institutions the more we support our local farmers and help our economy. When sourcing more local food we also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

HB767 will also support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.

Please support HB767 to help grow our local food economy, and nourish our keiki. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written above the printed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HIPHI Board

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Chair
KM Consulting LLC

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
Immediate Past Chair
Hawai'i Pacific Health

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of
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 Hawai'i at
Mānoa, College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human
Resources

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

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo,
Department of Kinesiology
and Exercise Sciences

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente



Date: March 30, 2021
To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB767 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Farm to School Program
Hearing: April 1, 2021 at 9:30am Via Videoconference

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB767 HD2 SD1 with a recommended amendment**, which moves the Hawai'i farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education (HIDOE), establishes a programmatic goal for HIDOE 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 HIDOE, and creates an annual reporting requirement.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Forceⁱ and the Hawai'i Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations statewide**.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui has worked closely over many years with various offices within HIDOE and **we fully support the formal establishment of a comprehensive farm to school program and coordinator position within HIDOE through this bill**.

In order to strengthen the HIDOE farm to school meal goal as stated in this bill, **we respectfully request that the following amendment be made on page 3, lines 5-8:**
“(a) ~~To the extent practicable, t~~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.”

We 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, students, 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 1, 2021 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 767 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports HB 767 HD 2 SD 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 5-8 to read as follows:

~~“(a) To the extent practicable, 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.”~~

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 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

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:37:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB767 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Thursday April 1, 2021, 9:30 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Senate Ways and Means Committee Members:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB767 HD2 SD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative and reduce emissions from food importation as soon as possible.

This bill would establish a programmatic goal of 30% local food for public school meals by 2030 and moves the Hawai'i farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education. Local food is not only healthier for the keiki, but also will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transporting food from distant places. HB 767 HD2 SD1 will help achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply, economic growth, and disaster preparedness, including increased production of food for our schools. Assuring the DOE's 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.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday April 1, 2021, 9:30 am

In strong support of HB767 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii's 6,000 members **strongly support HB767 HD2 SD1** 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.

HB767 HD2 SD1 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. Moreover, these efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools.

We urge you to pass **HB767 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



February 30, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB767 HD2 SD1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB767 HD2 SD1, which moves the farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education and sets 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 and their families; 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 HD2 SD1**. In addition, we request that the Hawaii farm to school meal goal as stated in this bill be strengthened by amending page 3, lines 5-8 as follows:

~~“(a) To the extent practicable, 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.”

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this HB767 HD2 SD1.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

¹ Koch, P., Wolf, R., Graziose, 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/>

LATE

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 2:46:29 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Consolidating the Hawai'i Farm to School Program in the Department of Education could prove to be a positive step for Hawaii's keiki and farmers. Serving 100,000 lunches per day, and mandating that 30% of the food be locally sourced, will certainly become an economic driver for Hawaii's agricultural economy and improve our keiki's health and wellness. IF HiDOE is willing to update school kitchen equipment, the menu cycle, and provide professional development for Cafeteria Staff there is a chance this could be the beginning of a new era of collaboration between Hawaii's small farms and our local schools.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

March 31, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 767, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian “loane” Jahn and I am writing on behalf of the UH West O’ahu Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal SUPPORT for HB 767, Relating to the Farm to School Program.

HB767 moves the Hawai’i farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. It 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, and it creates an annual reporting requirement.

We are 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 strong advocates for the Farm to School Program, we 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.

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

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.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank all members of the Senate committees on Ways and Means for considering the comments made herein.

Me ke aloha,

Ioane & 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.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 7:46:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:07:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 767 HD2 SD 1, which encourages local food production by requiring that 30% of food served in the public schools consists of locally sourced products.

Climate change is accelerating, and human-induced global warming has already led global temperatures to rise an average of one degree Centigrade over preindustrial levels. Further temperature increases would lead to widespread drought, crop failures, floods, wildfires, energy blackouts, infrastructure breakdowns, supply chain breakdowns, and infectious disease outbreaks that would be devastating and irreversible. Hawaii must do much more to reduce its consumption of fossil fuels and replace it with clean renewable energy in order to do its share to control climate change.

Hawaii is currently importing roughly 90% of the foods consumed in the state. All of these foods have an element of fossil fuel embedded in them because transportation to Hawaii, whether by plane or by ship, burns fossil fuel. The State has a goal of doubling local food production by 2030. Requiring 30% of food served in the public schools to be locally sourced demonstrates the leadership of State agencies in achieving this goal.

This bill is consistent with efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage school districts to use locally-produced foods in school meals. In this regard, the USDA has a grant program to help schools purchase kitchen equipment to help them provide healthier school meals. Hawaii is one of the few states with a year 'round growing season, and Hawaii has an abundance of unused agricultural land. This bill will reduce Hawaii's use of fossil fuel, improve food security, and improve nutrition among Hawaii's children.

This bill should be one of multiple bills passed by the Legislature to enable Hawaii to do its part to control climate change.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:09:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:44:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo Senators, my ohana and I are in strong support of HB767. Please pass this measure.

Mahalo!

Fern A€ Holland

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:24:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Moving this program to the DOE will enable more school and student participation as an integral DOE program.

Having at least 30% of food served in schools come from local sources will support local agriculture.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:40:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Mock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB767. We need a comprehensive farm to school program in the Hawai'i Department of Education to help support our keiki's health, local farmers, and a diversified local economy.

We can assist our children's nutritional health by helping to provide locally-grown, fresh food that helps them be set up for success during their education. Let's fill their tummies with healthy, locally-grown food to help fuel their mind for the future.

Please support HB767. Mahalo.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:40:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jileen Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. It will benefit local agriculture and better nutrition for students with the staet DOE.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:15:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charla Naone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai Kakou, my name is Charla Naone and I am from Nanakuli, O'ahu. I am a mother of 3 girls and I support bill HB767 HD2 SD1. I am a dialysis nurse and I see daily the negative effects of bad nutrition and these bad habits start from childhood. The Farm to School program will ensure that our children are routinely exposed to better nutrition and will in turn create better habits in food choices. This bill will also support local economy by supporting local farmers. We need to utilize our resources for agriculture and not for development only. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 3:57:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear WAM Chair Dela Cruz, WAM Vice Chair Cullen and WAM Committee members,

The State began the Farm-to-School program back in 2015, in part to encourage kids to consume more healthful, locally-grown foods; but no measurable progress has been made. I support Bill HB767 if the Hawaii Dept of Education can do a better job of administering the program than HDOA, but I have some concerns:

- I believe intermediate goals need to be set to arrive at 30% locally-produced food in school lunches by 2030. I suggest interim goals at perhaps two-year intervals to ensure that progress is being made.
- The annual report, though nice to know, seems quite onerous and may be impossible to tally. I'd prefer knowing if the kids were eating the foods being served and learning to enjoy the local fruits and vegetables.
- I strongly support this bill (HB767 HD2) if the emphasis is on serving fresh fruits and vegetables and not just "local food products."

This bill is a win-win for farmers, Hawaii food marketers and our keiki.

Thank you for listening and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:23:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Becklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I've been working with the Farm to School movement for over 13 years, as a volunteer, non-profit director and member of the Farm to School Hui. I've seen the impact that the movement has on students and their health. It is hands-on learning of health and nutrition.

Over the years, successful programs have essentially been stopped when a new DOE administrator comes in. Your support of this bill can help to continue to make the programs more successful. It establishes comprehensive farm to school program and coordinator position in the Hawaii Department of Education, including a holistic focus on all three core elements of farm to school: school gardens, education, and school food.

While I see that the passage of this bill is essential to the forward movement of the Farm to School movement I also see it as the lynchpin to supporting our farmers, community food systems and making the economy of Hawai'i more sustainable.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.

HB-767-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 4:58:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

I fully support HB767. Mahalo.

loane