

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 AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 3, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 761, 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.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/03/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0767 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 767 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.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

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

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, 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, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT., and House Bill No. 0767, 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 Nos. 0702 and 0767
Wednesday, February 3, 2021; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

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.

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.

HB-767

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 2:58:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh | Center for Getting Things Started | Support | No |

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill is a necessary step in helping to make the farm to school program as successful as possible
- Provides a clear goal/intention for the program to help establish an anchor point in the process
- Is in parallel with HB 702.

However, we do voice a concern that this bill may further the disconnect between the DOE and the DoA, and implore the legislators to seek ways to bring BOTH departments together via policy to support the work.

Mahalo nui loa,

Koh Ming Wei

Executive Director

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:08:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jess Sobocinski | FoodCorps Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

My name is Jess Sobocinski and I am the Associate Director for FoodCorps Hawai'i. Our mission is to connect keiki to healthy food in schools. Our program does this by partnering with local organizations and elementary schools on Hawai'i Island to place full-time FoodCorps AmeriCorps service members that lead garden, nutrition, and cooking lessons with students, staff, and families. Our organization also works with school food service branch to help administer the FFVP program, promote Harvest of the Month, and support cafeteria staff in encouraging students to eat the locally-sourced menu items on their lunch trays. In my experience, I see that the DOE and the School Food Service Branch in particular need additional support and coordination to better support local procurement efforts, education and promotion around programs like FFVP and Harvest of the Month, and other Farm to School programming. Housing this position within the DOE instead of DOA will ensure that the DOE has the adequate support and coordination with outside partners to successfully implement these programs.

Mahalo,

Jess



House Committee on Agriculture

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

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB767, 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 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.

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', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: HB 767
Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 10:00am
Conference Room 325
VIA Video Conference

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bobby Farias, and I am the President and Partner of Hawaii Meats, LLC, a locally vertically-integrated ranch. Hawaii Meats, LLC **supports HB767** 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 issue.

Respectfully,

Bobby Farias
President, Hawaii Meats, LLC



Testimony of
Sultan White,
CEO of Civil Impact LLC

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
10:00 AM

In SUPPORT of
HB702--RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT
HB767--RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Civil Impact LLC is in **SUPPORT** of HB702 which requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products and HB767 which moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education and establishes a programmatic goal that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

A holistic education and food system revitalizes our connection to food, farming, and the land, improves public health and well-being, and cultural and environmental awareness. This model of regenerative community food systems ensures the prosperity and longevity of local people and sets an example for the Pacific and the world.

According to a study by the National Farm to School Network, the implementation of these programs increases the grades, test scores, physical activity, and health of students; increases hands-on and experiential learning opportunities and lowers meal program costs at schools; increases income by an average of 5% and diversifies the market for farmers; and contributes to the creation of local jobs and economic activity for the community.

As our farmers struggle to find new distribution channels and pivot due to COVID-19, these programs provide the perfect opportunity to support local agriculture while realizing multiple long-term benefits to the people and this place. Please vote in SUPPORT of HB702 and HB767, and mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sultan White
CEO, Civil Impact LLC

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:46:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

As I read HB 767, I definitely support the rationale and goals recommended for the F2S Coordinator through his/her direction and collaborations. My hope is that the Coordinator is positioned within the HIDOE, whereas, the schools and children will be the recipients on one end of the food system. Some of us on the supply end of the continuum will continue to collaborate with HI DOA, USDA, ag operators, food brokers, food safety consultants, HI DOH and other stakeholders on the F2S Hui and Circles.

Sam Kakazu, former farmer, HIDOE (retired), former USDA Field Agent, Pollinator Advocate, Blue Zones (Koolaupoko) F2S Hui



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Hashem 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, 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



February 1, 2021

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Testimony in Support of HB 767, 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.)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room 325, 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**, and to offer comments.

HB 767. The purpose and intent of this bill is to 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 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, 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**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



February 1, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB767**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB767, 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 Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

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's perceptions about 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**.

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

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager

¹ Koch, P., Wolf, R., Grazioplene, 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/>

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:25:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jen Miles | Greenhouse Island Coffee | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Legislature,

I work in education and farm on the side with friends and family. I fully support this bill and feel it will help our State, communities, businesses and land.

Every step we take toward eliminating imports, we create jobs and sustainability that brings pride and protection to our land. We think everyone knows or thinks about sustainability, but they don't. So we need to really pay attention to the people who do and are willing to keep us sustainable.

Knowing where your food comes from nowadays is very important. I believe it will teach our kids health and also make them aware of... where food comes, so they can support bills, and people looking out for the communities here in Hawai'i.

Please pass bill HB767 - It will keep a cycle of sustainability and economics in our islands.

Thank you, aloha

Jen Miles



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

House Bill 767
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Hashem; Vice Chair Perruso; and Members of the House Committee on
Agriculture:

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,

/s/ Jeff McKnight

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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 3, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 767
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, 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, 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.

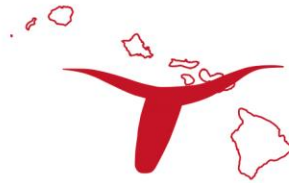
Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school program. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible. Providing to the 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 or these markets.

HFB supports moving the Farm to School Program to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. 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.



LATE

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

HB767

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.

Wednesday February 3, 2021, 10:00 am

Conference Room 325

VIA Video Conference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB767** 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

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 4:22:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mikyla Thomas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha to all,

My name is Mikyla Hi'ilani Thomas. In my almost 30 years of life, my neighborhoods have been Kuli'ou'ou, Wailuku, HÄ• na, PÄ• lolo, Kaunakakai and now Mililani. Because of these places I have a wide range of perspectives on food, health and education as it correlates to an individual's self determination. I now have a better understanding of the shortcomings and opportunities of Hawai'i's diverse communities. I am a graduate of Hawai'i's Public School System and I stand before you exuding my general learner outcome of a community contributor. I realized at a young age that my education system and the food I was being served were decisions made for me by people from a far away place with no ties to this 'Ä• ina. I speak to you on behalf of my two children Rell and Faith and the hundreds of thousands of keiki who are just like me in the public school system today. As a school garden teacher I saw what it meant to kids to eat fresh produce. Many of my students were economically disadvantaged and by sharing something as simple as fresh fruit and vegetables I witnessed their chins lift and their eyes light up. They stood taller and it was clear that they felt valued. Each year the DOE sends over 110 Million dollars to mainland companies. If we can keep that money recirculating in Hawai'i why would we not want to support the DOE in their efforts to support local food producers while building our childrens relationships to foods that grow well close to home. I support House Bill 767!

Mahalo for your time!

HB-767

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 4:24:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sandy | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support using more fresh, local foods in our schools in Hawaii.

HB-767

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 6:44:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-767

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 11:01:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill establishes an important target goal to move us toward feeding our kids the fresh local food they deserve. Please support it.

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tenaiya Brookfield, and I am in strong **support** of HB767 with amendments.

Amendment: Replace 30% local food with 60% local produce and protein

In 2020, HIDOE was already serving 30% local foods and is on track to reach 40% by 2024. 60% by 2030 is an achievable and realistic goal.

Pilot programs at Hawaii schools have been successful

In 2015, as part of the Farm to School Initiative, the Kohala schools complex has a successful pilot program related to waste diversion, scratch cooking, and menu choice. Local food purchases increased from 20% to 42.5% during the first semester. Fresh foods increased from 27% of food served to 92% at the end of the first semester. Cost savings in the first semester were 30%.

In 2018, Mililani Schools launched a pilot program that analyzed the effects of changing ingredients and recipes on waste reduction. They successfully changed from 60% processed to 60% scratch cooking, increased local ingredients from 20% to 40%percent, and saw an overall waste reduction of 40%¹.

Garden and compost programs are imperative for aina pono learning

Currently, 80% of HIDOE schools already have varying types of gardens. These gardens have the potential to teach students about nutrition, local agriculture, Hawaiian culture, food waste, plant life cycles, and more. Aloha Aina and Aina Pono learning allows students to deepen their relationship with the natural environment, cultivate connections within their communities, and build critical skills that can be applied to real-world issues². These programs are key steps in creating a populous that cares about the environment, sustainable living, support of local farming and jobs.

Mahalo nui loa,



Tenaiya Brookfiel

¹ "Hawaii DOE | 'Aina Pono Programs."

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Offices/FacilitiesandOperations/SchoolFoodServices/f2s/Pages/default.aspx>.

² "Āina-Based Education & Community Engagement - Hawaii"

<https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/stat/goals/5xhf-begg/nmui-ua2k/vy3r-ycc2>.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 3:24:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| autumn ness | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB 767 because it

- will support local farmers and an increase in food production
- Will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, for public school students etc.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:08:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Noelani Ahia | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Food Security and the health of our ohana is critical, especially at this time with climate change and the current and possible future pandemics. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Noelani Ahia

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:36:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:49:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Stayton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB767. This bill will allow the Department of Education to take control of the improvement of the nutrition of our keiki. It will guide them to increasing the locally sourced foods available to school cafeterias. It is an important step forward to support our local farmers and make more nutritious foods available to the schools.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Susan Stayton

Lawai, HI

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 5:22:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Koohan Paik | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:22:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sharon douglas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Moving the curriculum from the Dept of Agriculture to the Dept of Education allows for students to become more intimately connected with their food source and fosters knowledge of local sustainable food sources.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 6:22:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John NAYLOR | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

MOVE IT !

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 7:47:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill will help local farmers and be great for the kids. Decreasing the amount of food that needs to be packaged and shipped here will also help save the planet by lowering our carbon emissions. Please pass this bill!

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:21:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jeanne wheeler | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

This bill can really help our school nutritional programs & local farmers - please pass it!
Mahalo

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:27:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michal Fentin Stover | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB767's movement of the State farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education because it would mandate that at least 30% of the food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030 and support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for our children.

Thank you.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:44:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of HB767.because it moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education while establishing 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 mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers
- Will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, for public school students etcPlease pass this bill.
-
- Thank you,
- Mary Lu Kelley
- 3644 Lawaiuka Road
- Lawai, HI 9676

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 10:51:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca M Goldschmidt | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I write in support of HB767 because I believe in reduced reliance on imported foods and a true investment in the farmers and stewards of the land of Hawaii. The long term goal should truly be a lunch menu of 100% locally produced goods instead of merely 30%. Mahalo for considering the future of our islands and our keiki.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:19:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| brandi corpuz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Brandi Corpuz and I'm from Kihei Maui. Two years ago I helped to create a thriving non-profit called Rooted Kekahi Me Ka Aina. As educators we believe that many of our social and economic problems can be solved through growing food and family together. We use place-based education to create a strong connection to the place we live, the food we eat and the people we love. It is very important for our children to have regular access to culturally appropriate and healthy food, especially while they are in school as many children do not have access to healthy food. I also believe that if the farm to school program were placed into the DOE's control, then there could be many curriculum and partnerships developed to create jobs and food security for us all. Thank you

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 7:40:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in full support of this bill because:

- Creates a mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers
- Will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, for public school students etc.

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 7:43:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tarla Martin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I believe this would be good for our children's nutritional needs as well as local agriculture. Supporting both is important and this program would allow us to do so; two birds, one stone.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:18:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M. A. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Currently, the school breakfast and lunches consists of processed foods that are very high in sodium. If they do get any sort of vitamins or vegetables, it's in the form of a lettuce and tomato for their processed burger or sandwich. Cheez-Its and marshmallow squares are served for breakfast. Cheese bites with marianara sauce, hot dog, chicken nuggets, popcorn chicken, cheese pizza, are served for lunch, some even twice a month. Does that look like a healthy meal to you? Imagine how eating like this everyday, for 10+ years, affects the health of our children. Aside from these meals not being the healthiest choices for our students, now is the time to create a sustainable practice for our schools and island. Students have Natural Resources courses in their schools where they are learning aquaponics, aquaculture, agriculture, etc. There is a huge disconnect if they are being taught how to farm and grow quality food but yet are being served and expected to eat highly processed and unhealthy food. Let the students see how their work in the classroom can make a positive change in their community. Isn't that the goal, for students to be able to make positive changes in their communities? Now is the time.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:19:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Samantha Groom | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB767 supports both students and local farmers. The health of our Kiki should be a top priority.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:29:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allison Kappelle | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a parent of 3 kids at 3 different public schools in Hawaii, I strongly support this bill.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:54:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Meredith Cross | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meredith Cross, a resident of Kapa'a Kaua'i and a mother of a 3 year old daughter. I am in support of this bill in order to provide the best of what our local aina provides for our keiki. Please see the below for additional reasons for support.

- Creates a mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers
- Will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods; i.e. kalo, sweet potatoes, for public school students etc.

Mahalo nui loa,

Meredith Cross

Kapa'a, HI 96746

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:06:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Leo Braulick | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear members of the committee:

I support HB 767 (Farm To School) because it moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. It also 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. This will create a mandate for increasing school food procurement from local farmers and will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods.

I hope you will also support HB 767.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:11:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jhesabelle Castillo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jhesabelle Castillo and I am a student in Kaimuki High School. I am writing in support of HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:11:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Hong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is James Hong and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I am writing in support of HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:12:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hezekiah Farmer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a student at Kaimuki High School and I support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:13:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Gray | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB 767. It will help our local farmers, our local economy and help us become food secure. It will also be a lot healthier for our children. We will save on shipping as well.

Mahalo,

Laura Gray R.N.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:14:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hi'ilani Kahawai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hi'ilani Kahawai and I am a student at Kaimuki High School. I am writing in support of HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:15:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kira rose moananu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kira Rose Moananu and I'm a student in the 10th grade, and I'm for HB767 relating to the farm to school program. As someone in high school, I feel that supporting local not only helps the farmers but also the school, as the food that will be transferred from farm to plate will be locally grown and locally owned. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to voice my opinion. Mahalo :)

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:15:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alijah BArbour | Individual | Comments | No |

Comments:

I am a student at Kaimuki high school

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:15:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Henry Palik | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Henry Palik, I am a student at Kaimuki High School. I support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:16:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Khaivon Sison Khamlong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Khaivon Sison Khamlong and I am a student at Kaimuki High School. I am writing this because I support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:17:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Saydee | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

My name is Saydee and I am a student of Kaimuki High School. I'm writing this to support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:17:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sonasi latu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sonasi latu and I am a student at kaimuki high school. I support hb767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:17:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| dante peltier | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

hi my name is dante and im a student at kaimuki high school

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:18:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anau Tokoma'ata | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hi my name is Anau Tokoma'ata and I am a student at Kaimuki High school and I support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:19:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kilani josey | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hi my name is kilani josey and I am a student at kaimuki high school and I support HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:20:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Destiny Milovale | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support bill HB767.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:21:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kalwin Tabanan | Kaimuki High School | Support | No |

Comments:

I support **HB767**.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:22:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benedict Moala | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the HB767 bill.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:25:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Namto Namto | Kaimuki High School | Support | No |

Comments:

i support this because on behalf of kaimuki high school we love foods that are from the farm because its more fresh than other big buisness.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:31:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Leota | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Most of our school foods are imported from other places. If we was to grow our own food we know how we grow it and what kind of crops we grow. Also this can cut down obesity really good because the crops are healthy.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:34:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Dawos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:34:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Neil Dawos | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:45:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erin Drayer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I very much support this! Students need healthier foods and we need to support local!

Thank you,

Erin

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:47:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brady Irwin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this testimony because I am a current student and meals at my school are not the best and are very bland. if this testimony gets approved meals would be a lot healthier.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:57:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lydi Bernal | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB767, which moves the Hawai'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.

This bill formally establishes a holistic farm to school program and coordinator position within HIDOE, ensuring success through dedicated staffing and a focus on all three core elements of farm to school: **school food, school gardens, and education.**

As a former garden educator and long time farm to school advocate, I have personally experienced the profound benefits of garden-based learning in Hawaii's schools, which increases a **sense of joy in learning** among students of all ages and a real willingness and eagerness among students to **eat more fresh fruits and vegetables!**

I encourage the Hawai'i State Legislature to continue your strong support of farm to school, including enactment of a **fee on sugar-sweetened beverages to fund important public health programs** such as this.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Lydi Bernal

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:05:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LILY NGUYEN | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a garden educator at a school that participated in F2S/G2C. Increased access to local procurement would greatly benefit our communities, economy, and overall health of students.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:53:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dominique Miles | Kalaheo High School | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB 767 Farm to school program

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:02:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruston Utu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I highly support this bill. Having a farm to school program will allow for students and parents to know where exactly their food is coming from. I believe that parents would truly like the idea of knowing that their child is eating food that is locally sourced and not food that is shipped and modified. Students can also learn to appreciate our local farmers as they can be taught how they get their food from the farms to their plates. I think it opens a lot of conversation with teachers and students about careers and health.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:13:18 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ilikeaokalani Handley | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I have taught an agricultural elective at Waimanāloa Elementary and Intermediate for the last 2 years. In February of 2020, We held a farm to table lunch made with the kalo and lu'au leaves grown in our school's garden. All of the kalo was planted, harvested, and cleaned by students ranging from grade K-8. We used our school's garden to host a family day in May of 2019, when we planted the kalo. That learning was so fun because it was hands-on and extra special because it was place-based. Having a school garden has not only changed the landscape, but the attitude and degree of awareness of our school community toward self-sustainability. Moreover, the middle school students taking this elective compost otherwise wasted school lunches, and in addition, they have used the compost to improve the growing quality of our garden's soil. We hope to continue this program so that students learn good habits and the farming techniques and skills for a more sustainable future. There is so much more to learn and do!!

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:54:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Starr Johnson Tuki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support healthy keiki, healthy aina, and a healthy economy of local farming. The nutritional state of our keiki is in a very scary place, bringing healthy foods from our own local community into the schools is an important step to making our community more healthy.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 2:54:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tui Moe | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I think it is important that we support local businesses.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:18:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dexter Kishida | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB767. I love the commitment with a measurable number of 30% by 2030. With the communities strong support and the interagency working groups like the Hawaii Institutional Purchasing Hui our instutions will be able to purchase more local food.

Moving the act that creates a farm to school program to the DOE does make the most sense, but would suggest funding of the position be placed within the bill, as connecting our students to where their food comes from will build lifelong customers for Hawaii grown and raised products! Thank you!

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:43:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kenneth Ho, Jr. | God's Country Waimanalo | Support | No |

Comments:

Support

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:12:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeannette Gurung | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. There are many benefits to having at least 30% of the food served in public schools to be sourced from local farms. It provides a reliable market for local farmers who face many challenges , particularly during this pandemic with lower numbers of tourists,, higher shipping costs, etc. to have guaranteed market demand and prices. This provides the kind of predictability that benefits farmers and local producers. As well , it provides teaching opportunities for school kids to learn about this island's food resources and the importance of protecting our food systems.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:22:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mira Gurung | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha honorable members of congress, thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony as follows:

As a garden and nutrition teacher at an elementary school on the Big Island, I know that our keiki in school are fed meals sourced from far away, lacking in nutrition. We have an amazing opportunity to connect keiki to local food systems whilst supporting local farmers and investing in our own food security and community! This is definitely the way forward for our keiki and food systems.

Mahalo,

Mira Gurung

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:09:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anne Thurston | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill enthusiastically! I hope very much that it passes into law! Hawaii's children deserve healthy, nutritious food, which is best grown locally.

LATE

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 1:46:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

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, but I believe intermediate goals are needed to arrive at 30% locally –produced food in school lunches by 2030. I suggest new goals at perhaps two-year intervals.

The annual report, though nice to know, seems quite onerous and maybe impossible to tally. I'd prefer to know if the kids were eating and learning to enjoy the local foods.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii