

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE**

FEBRUARY 16, 2021
2:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 817 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 817 HD1, relating to agriculture. This bill would require each state department that purchases produce to ensure that 10% of purchased produce is grown locally by 2025 and increases the required percentage every five years to a maximum of 50% locally-grown by 2050. This bill may benefit agricultural producers in the State and potentially creates a larger market for locally grown products. The Department has received reports that a similar requirement mandated by [Act 233, SLH 2015](#) achieved measurable increases in utilization of locally-sourced agricultural products. The Department supports the intent of this measure but defers to the State Procurement Office and those departments with large food service programs regarding this measure's operational impacts on their respective programs. The Department additionally has concerns regarding the logistics for data collection and reporting that would be necessary for effective enforcement the milestones and percentages imposed by this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

Date: 02/16/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 329 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Consumer Protection
& Commerce

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0817, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown and report to the legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally-grown produce benchmarks. Effective 7/1/2112. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 817, HD 1 to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by the Department is locally grown.

The Department's Office of Facilities and Operations School Food Services Branch will continue to improve and evaluate its business processes and practices to achieve a greater utilization of Hawaii agricultural products. Additionally, the Department will need to determine a baseline of how much of its current produce purchases are locally sourced in order to begin monitoring any movement to fulfill the goals of the proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
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February 12, 2021

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Testimony in Support of HB 817, H.D.1, Relating to Agriculture (Requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally grown and report to the Legislature on each department’s progress toward meeting locally grown produce benchmarks.)

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room 329, 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 817, H.D.1**, and to offer comments.

HB 817, H.D.1. The purpose of this bill is to establish benchmarks that require each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally grown, and to report to the Legislature on the progress of each department toward meeting those benchmarks, thereby facilitating the increased use and consumption of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers.

LURF’s Position. LURF members include farmers, ranchers and landowners who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts 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 817, H.D.1 will greatly assist with the endeavor to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii’s food supply, economic growth, and disaster preparedness, including increased production of food for institutions and facilities throughout the State.

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 817, H.D.1, which is to support agriculture and instigate further collaboration by and between the State, its various departments, 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 817, H.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 817 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Johanson 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 the intent of HB 817 HD 1, which requires each State department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally grown, and report to the legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally grown produce benchmarks.

Ulupono supports the State leading by example in purchasing 100% locally grown, raised and harvested produce as part of each department's purchases. By establishing the 50% by 2050 goal, with relative benchmarks along the way, the State is supporting local farmers and ranchers with a consistent market, providing fresh, healthy products to the community, and keeping State money here in the islands. This effort can be extremely important in supporting our local food production goals while also increasing the State's food security.

Ulupono would like to offer a few amendments for consideration. Knowing that there are times that the entire plate or meal may need to include a processed or value-added product in order to make the greatest local product impact on the overall meal, we recommend adding language and definitions to be included in meeting the local purchasing goals listed in the bill as such.

- Replace "as measured by the cost of the produce" throughout the bill with "as measured by the per cent of the total food cost"
- Replace "locally grown produce" throughout the bill with "fresh local agricultural

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

product and local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food product”

- Add the following definitions:
 - “Fresh local agricultural product” means fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products, livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products, aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural products 100% grown, raised, and harvested in Hawai‘i.
 - “Local value-added processed, agricultural, or food product” shall be defined to mean at least fifty-one per cent of the product’s primary agricultural product shall be grown, raised, and harvested in Hawai‘i.”
 - “Primary agricultural product” means the major agricultural product in a processed or value-added agricultural or food product

These definitions were mirrored after the Department of Agriculture’s Seal of Quality Program – the top-of-the-line program established to protect the Hawai‘i brand for both fresh and value-added products.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



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

February 16, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 817, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 329
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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 817, HD1, which requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown.

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

HFB appreciates the intent of HB 817 which sets goals to increase the required percentage of locally grown produce that departments must purchase. Policies, investments, and resources that support agriculture are necessary to ensure that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers can supply the produce to meet the goals established in HB 817, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-817-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:37:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha

While supporting this bill to establish concrete goals, then data to ensure that a certain percentage of local ag products is being procured by state agencies is a great step. The success of this mandate is dependent on relationships and processes mentioned in other legislation during this session. Together, the package is part of a plan that many have been advocating for in preparation for climate change events. The pandemic has only accelerated the need for baselines, goals and supports for those along the supply to table continuum.

Mahalo

Sam Kakazu, HIDOE (retired), former USDA Field Agent, former farmer, F2S (Contributor), Ag Education/FFA Advocate



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and Exercise Sciences*

*Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente*

*Catherine Taschner, JD
McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP*

Date: February 15, 2021
To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB817 HD1, Relating to Agriculture
Hearing: February 16, 2021 at 2:00pm in Conference Room 329

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB817 HD1 with a recommended amendment**, which requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown.

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

In order to **highlight the importance of indigenous staple crops such as taro, breadfruit, and sweet potato** in Hawaii's journey toward food security and food self-sufficiency, we respectfully request that HB817 HD1 be amended to include "staple starches" within the definition of "Produce" on Page 4, Line 7, as follows:

"Produce" means fruits, vegetables, **staple starches**, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products, livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products, aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural products.

Also, due to the immensity of the important work ahead as proposed in this bill, **we maintain the stance that a farm to state/farm to school program and one or more dedicated coordinator positions are needed in both the Hawaii'i Departments of Agriculture and Education** (as per our testimony for HB767 HD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program).

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school and farm to state!

(continued on next page)

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** comprises of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.



House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB817

Tuesday, February 16th, 2021 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB817, and all measures that help to provide tangible solutions that expand local regenerative and sustainable food production agriculture in Hawai'i.

HB817 requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown and report to the legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally-grown produce benchmarks.

HB817 therefore supports the transition of our food supply towards being more sustainable and locally sourced while providing a stable committed market for local farmers at a time when it is greatly needed.

This effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security and supporting our economy.

With the COVID 19 pandemic there has been major upset to our already fragile local food system. HB817 is an important part of government leading by example to be part of the solution to transform and expand our local agricultural sector.

In addition to all the benefits of growing our food security and eating quality locally sourced foods, the more we support local food production and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint associated with incoming shipping costs and our solid waste production.

Please support HB817 to help grow our local food economy.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-817-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:26:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure and Buy Local!

It's common sense to keep dollars in Hawaii's economy and support our local growers

Mahalo!

HB-817-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 9:45:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please consider supporting HB 817. We all want Hawai'i's farmers to succeed and this bill helps incentivize local production of food by ensuring an ever increasing market for local produce. Mahalo for your consideration.



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Monday, February 15, 2021

Re: HB817 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of HB817 which will require each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown. **I SUPPORT HB817 with the amendment that "staple starches" be added to the definition of "produce"** (page 3, line 20).

We formed the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative in 2016 to build a network of small-scale, diversified farms that grow breadfruit and want to improve community access to this amazing, nutritious food. From 2018 to 2020 we were a primary local supplier for the DOE's 'Aina Pono program, providing minimally processed sweet potatoes, bananas, green papayas, and 'ulu - which transitioned to be not only a special Harvest of the Month menu item but also a regular part of the school lunch cycle in school year 2019-2020.

Through this experience we are living proof not only that farm to school / farm to institution is possible in Hawaii, but of its huge potential benefit for both local farmers and children. As general manager of HUC, one of my most memorable and gratifying experiences was standing in a supermarket in late 2019 handing out samples of 'ulu when a school-aged boy excitedly ran up to my booth and told his mother how much he knows about and loves 'ulu *because he ate at in school*.

At the same time, the partnership between our co-op and DOE had a meaningful impact on the 100 small-scale, diversified, family farmers of the co-op - located on both Hawaii island and Maui - by enabling us to expand the number of crops we purchase from farmers and to grow our overall volumes from 20,000 pounds in 2017 to 40,000 pounds in 2018 and nearly 200,000 pounds by 2020. About half of our volume was going to local schools at the pinnacle of this relationship. Seeing as our state imports over 99% of the starches we consume, we believe adding "staple starches" to the definition of "produce" in HB817 is critical to leverage the great potential of farm to state initiatives to help drive increased local staple crop production and consumption in Hawaii.

The impact that farm to state can have on the future of our islands is immeasurably important to our food security, native Hawaiian cultural perpetuation, the preservation of working agricultural lands, vitality of our rural communities, and our long-term environmental, social and economic resilience.



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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

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

Sincerely,



Dana Shapiro, General Manger



HB-817-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:01:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Locally grown foods are one of many the ways we can make Hawaii a more sustainable place while addressing climate change and the quality of the food we eat.

Thank you for supporting local agriculture.

Matthew Geyer

HB-817-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:15:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

Mahalo Representatives for hearing this measure. My 'ohana and I support HB817.
Mahalo!