

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 12, 2021  
1:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 817 HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 817 HD2, 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 appreciates the intent of this measure but defers to those departments with large food service programs regarding this measure's operational impacts on their respective programs. The Department notes that logistical support for data collection and reporting would be necessary for effective enforcement of 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:** 03/12/2021

**Time:** 01:00 PM

**Location:** Via Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Agriculture and  
Environment

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0817, HD2 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. (HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 817, HD2 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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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March 12, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIROMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 817, HD2**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Via Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, 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, HD2**, 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, HD2 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, HD2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 5:42:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kauaai	Support	No

Comments:

This is a significant opportunity to utilize existing budgets to increase our food security and food systems across the state.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
Friday, March 12, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 817 HD 2, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair Gabbard 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 2**, 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



## HIPHI Board

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KM Consulting LLC*

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Center*

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Resources*

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

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

*Garret Sugai  
Kaiser Permanente*

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

Re: SUPPORT for HB817 HD2, Relating to Agriculture

Hearing: March 12, 2021 at 1:00pm Via Videoconference

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Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB817 HD2**, which requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown.

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

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 Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education** (as per our testimony for HB767 HD2 Relating to the Farm to School Program).

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

Me Ke Aloha,

Lydi Bernal  
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

**HB817 HD2**

Relating to Agriculture

Friday, March 1, 2021, 1:00 pm  
VIA Video Conference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB817 HD2** 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. We encourage the increase in local food purchasing to support Hawaii's ranchers and farmers, keep funds in the state, and encourage a habit for our students to eat and support local agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





## **Hawaii Cattlemen's Council**

### **Position Statement on Local Beef Production**

One of the core strengths of any society lies in its ability to be self-sufficient, to feed itself. Hawaii's beef producers are committed to providing wholesome food for its community that is safe, secure and sustainable.

For most of its existence, Hawaii's beef industry has followed a conventional model with production, harvest and processing occurring within state. In the early 1990's, a combination of rising costs and inefficiencies led Hawaii producers to shift to an export calf model which remains dominant today. However, with increasing consumer demand for locally sourced food, there is renewed focus on expanding local beef production. Several private labels have emerged over the last 10 years, raising the flavor and tenderness profile for local beef, further driving demand. The groundwork for expansion has been set.

In recent years, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognized limited harvest capacities as one of the primary constraints for expanding local beef production. It has been HCC's position that each island should have access to a full complement of harvest and processing facilities. The economic benefit of efficiencies achieved with consolidation should be balanced with the unique challenges Hawaii's beef industry faces. These include;

- the vulnerability of interisland transportation of perishable goods and/or live animals as it relates to;
  - food security and safety, animal welfare, affordable shipping rates, labor disputes and equipment failure
- the need to develop and maintain a diversified economic base and skilled labor force on outer islands
- limited competitive markets
- quasi-public responsibility of state-owned food processing facilities

Among other things previously identified (see attached, "A Livestock Harvest Facility for Hawaii"), the ideal model should address;

- Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership
- Increased capacity/access for all producers to harvest, process and market
- Growth of market share through "coopetition" vs direct competition
- Compliance with regulatory planning concepts and concerns, especially as related to environmental issues
- Preservation of the integrity of locally labeled beef
- Opportunity to expand locally branded products

Our producers continue to provide high-quality grass-fed beef year-round, which serves a loyal, sustainability-minded customer base that increasingly want to know where their food comes

from. HCC supports a business model that facilitates infrastructure that allows each island to maintain autonomy over its beef production from gate to plate.

## **A Livestock Harvest Facility for the State of Hawaii Hawaii Cattlemen's Council**



Senate Bill 1257 provides \$1.5M for the planning and design of a livestock harvest facility within the state of Hawaii. This is an ambitious initiative that represents our strong belief in the future of our industry and our commitment to building infrastructure that will help grow and expand our local markets.

Our critical need for this project is based on the following;

- a. increased consumer demand for local beef
- b. increased market demand created by expanding programs, such as our schools' Aina Pono initiative
- c. availability for producers' strategic culling programs
- d. security for animal welfare in the face of disease or drought

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for planning and design should include the following key components and deliverables from firms who will respond;

1. An analysis of a viable business/feasibility plan that addresses expected throughput, revenues, expenses and return on investment related to the operation of a new facility. Our initial recommendation for Hawaii Island is for a 5,000 head capacity that can be expanded to 10,000 head/year. This will be varied island by island. We see this information as critical to attracting capital to our state and industry.
2. Schematics and drawings of the layout of a new facility that can be adapted to meet different environmental conditions for each island and can scale up or down to meet production needs.
3. Analysis and review of technologies to support the remote locations and sensitive environments in which this facility will operate.

4. Review of the following key features of the facility itself. These features will ensure that the proposed model will meet our goal of creating a facility that serves the sustainability needs of our industry addressed through these economic, social and environmental considerations.

<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity (target steady state, initial, and ramp up)</li> <li>• Scalable/modular</li> <li>• Marketing partner</li> <li>• Added value/processing</li> <li>• Certification for specialty markets – i.e. export, BRC, GFSI</li> <li>• Management expertise</li> <li>• Transportation costs</li> <li>• Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership</li> <li>• Innovation and technology</li> <li>• Useful life</li> <li>• Potential for multi-species use</li> <li>• Scope of facility—slaughter, processing, and further processing capabilities</li> <li>• Value Added Products and Processing</li> </ul>
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food safety</li> <li>• Worker safety</li> <li>• Animal well-being</li> <li>• Employee engagement</li> <li>• Central location</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy</li> <li>• Waste disposal - bio digester</li> <li>• Water resources and requirements</li> <li>• Critical path for permits</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Statement</li> <li>• Air emissions/odor</li> <li>• Proximity to existing infrastructure and need for establishment of new connections to electrical, water, wastewater, and roadways.</li> </ul>

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.



## Senate Agriculture and Environment

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB817 HD2

Friday, March 12th, 2021 1:00pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB817 HD2, 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 HD2 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 11:12:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

While we fully support this bill, we recommend that a "farm to state" program and coordinator position be maintained within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, in order to facilitate the achievement of local food procurement goals put forth in this bill.

COVID-19 has shown us how vulnerable Hawai'i food system is. Partnerships and collaborations must be maintained to attain the goals of local food procurement for state agencies.

Mahalo

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408  
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[www.lurf.org](http://www.lurf.org)

March 10, 2021

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture

**Testimony in Support of HB 817, H.D.2, 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.)**

**Friday, March 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m.; 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.2**, and to offer comments.

**HB 817, H.D.2.** 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.2 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.2, 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.2**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



# Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: March 12, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Via Videoconference

## TESTIMONY

By Marissa Harman

Director of Asset Management

RE: **HB 817, HD2 - Relating to Agriculture**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Gabbard, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Nishihara, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

Kamehameha Schools **supports the intent of HB 817, HD2**, 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.

We believe that our educational mission is best achieved in a society that supports and enables the success of our learners. One significant component of such a society is a sustainable, local food system. For this reason, we have heavily invested in agriculture on our lands across Hawai‘i to contribute to the State’s Aloha+ Challenge goal of doubling local food production by 2030.

As a large institutional purchaser, we believe the State can lead the way in local food purchasing. By setting benchmarks for local produce purchased, the State can incrementally increase its procurement of such products. In doing so, the State will help the local agricultural industry increase production by growing local demand at a known rate. The increase in local purchasing will also support economic recovery and enable greater long-term resilience.

We also recommend that language be added to this bill to allow the State to include local processed and value-added products into its purchases, creating a greater diversity of available products for inclusion in the count.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS HB 817, HD2**.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Mahalo nui!



**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 5:21:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

**I support HB817** and the actions of requiring state departments to ensure a certain percentage of produce that is purchased is locally-grown and reported. Personally, I participate in a Community Food Distribution that is sourced primarily from local farmers and producers, I know it can be done while giving the farmer/producers market value for their produce. HB817 will prioritize ea by continuing the work of food security and food access in these islands by supporting local farmers and local economy. Sourcing from local producers ensure culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, as well as help reduce our reliability on imports. If government department can lead by example, it will encourage residents to do the same.

Mahalo nui.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 10:56:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca M Goldschmidt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our farmers and families deserve support in making healthy food choices easier and accessible. This bill will allow for ancestral and culturally appropriate foods to have wider reach, addressing our widespread problems with diabetes, heart disease, and colon cancer. By requiring a percentage of locally-grown food to be purchased, we are building in a sustainable and exemplary model of health that will be very important in the long term wellbeing of the people of Hawaii. Rejecting this bill will allow for the continued dependence on corporate food and all the unsustainable practices that go along with it - labor exploitation, shipping, lack of freshness and nutrients, etc. Please pass HB817 and invest in the future of Hawaii's food systems.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 9:16:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakāleia, O‘ahu currently residing in Mā‘ili‘ili in my ancestral homelands. I am writing in support of HB817 because it:

- Prioritizes the purchasing of locally-grown foods which is critical in establishing food security for our islands
- Supports local farmers and the local economy
- Provides for Hawaii's people with more culturally appropriate, nutritious foods.
- The government departments that sources local food is a great form of leading by example to encourage citizens to do the same
- Sourcing and supporting local foods can help to decrease our carbon footprint associated with the reliance on imported food in which the state has promised to lower its carbon footprint on

Support this bill.

me ke aloha ‘Āina,

Nanea Lo

‘Ano‘ai a welina mai kākou,

I am writing in support of HB817. It is important now, more than ever that Hawai‘i establishes a solid foundation for food security in our islands by prioritizing locally-grown foods for purchase. Not only will it keep the local economy flowing, it also has great potential to change the way people get access to fresh produce, help local farmers to continue growing foods and will promote more local food sourcing thereby creating more security for the people.

Mahalo,

na Kēhau Jahn

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 10:30:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying FOR HB817. I feel it is necessary to feed our community healthy foods. We also need to support our local farmers. This sounds like a win-win to me.

Mahalo,

Barbara Penn

Wailua, Kauai

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 12:48:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for HB817. As a student of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand how state departments prioritizing locally grown food can benefit many aspects of our food system and the overall life of Hawaii's people. It can help to establish food security in our islands, support local farmers and the local economy, provide more culturally appropriate, nutritious foods to the people of Hawaii, and decrease our carbon footprint associated with our current reliance on imported foods. Additionally, the government taking initiative to prioritize locally-grown foods is a commendable leadership action that will inspire everyday citizens to prioritize and purchase locally-grown foods as well.

As a 22-year old soon-to-be college graduate, I look to our legislative leaders to make the right choices now to create a brighter future for Hawaii for my fellow youth and me to live in. This brighter future for Hawaii should include prioritizing locally produced foods that help to make our food system a more sustainable and resilient one.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2021 2:07:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

The state must set the example and lead the way for the community by supporting local farmers. Sourcing and purchasing locally grown food is critical in establishing our food security on the islands and reducing our carbon footprint in the world.

Mahalo!

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 9:00:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lurline Bettencourt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this!

Mahalo



**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 9:15:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayleen Egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need more organizational and streamlined metrics to formulate a baseline as a way to empirically measure progress for targeted goals. This bill will ensure a way to collaborate the formation of metrics.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 11:13:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB817.

**HB-817-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 1:10:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Farm to State Program and a Coordinator position should be housed in HDOA in order to achieve the local food procurement goals outlined in this Bill. This will of course require a tracking system capable of inputting and holding data.