



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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February 19, 2021

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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.)

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room 308, 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.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:47:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Malama Kauaï	Support	No

Comments:

This is a straightforward way the government can support our local food system and producers, and the food hubs across the state are ready to support them in doing so. Barriers of having to aggregate farmer by farmer are becoming a thing of the past, making it easier to procure local food. Because of this, we also ask you to please consider investing in the statewide Food Hub Hui to assist in executing these goals.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:10:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Dandurand	Kauai Food Hub	Support	No

Comments:

This bill shows the residents of the state of Hawaii that our government is leading by example. This is a powerful statement.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:47:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB817

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:31:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

An 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.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:12:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Finance Committee

This is walking the talk on supporting local food production. Please pass this bill.

mahalo,

Kai Lucas

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:14:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Food security is essential in Hawai'i. And, the more we support local food production and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint. Also, sourcing local food for schools will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo and sweet potatoes.

Please support this bill and lead by example!

Thank you

Dee Green

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:18:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 817 HD2 because it will help our local farmers have a more reliable income stream. It is really a labor of love, and as a small kine farmer, it is really rewarding just to know you are providing healthy food on a local level, but it is difficult to actually make a living at it. Any way that we can make it more profitable is a good thing.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:21:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support our local mahi 'ai and lawai'a by supporting HB817! Supporting our local food caretakers and environmental caretakers supports our collective health and economy!

Key points/factors supporting this statement:

- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security.
- Government departments sourcing local food 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.

Let's help all of Hawai'i thrive no matter what local, national, and global challenges we face by investing in our local economy and food supply!

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Jennifer Kau'i Young

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 8:08:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a lifelong resident of Hawai'i. I'm writing in full support of this bill due to these reasons:

- The more we source local foods for schools and other institutions the more we support our local farmers and help our economy.
- Sourcing local food for schools will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.
- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security.
- Government departments sourcing local food 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 this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:12:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Kamalu Carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha-

I am summiting my support to HB817

Mahalo,

Claire Kamalu Carroll

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:25:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

- We need to support our local farmers and local economy.
- Sourcing local food for schools will support culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.
- Prioritizing locally-grown food is a critical to food security.
- Government departments sourcing local food is leading by example to transform and expand our local agriculture.
- Local foods decrease our carbon footprint from shipping costs and solid waste production.

Mahalo, Cory Harden

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:48:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

- The more we source local foods for schools and other institutions the more we support our local farmers and help our economy.
- Sourcing local food for schools will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.
- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security.
- Government departments sourcing local food 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.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:20:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of all government departments being required to purchase locally-grown products thereby supporting 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.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:30:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill HB817. I support this bill because:

- The more we source local foods for schools and other institutions the more we support our local farmers and help our economy.
- Sourcing local food for schools will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.
- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security.
- Government departments sourcing local food 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.

Mahalo for your time,

Joanna M P Resurrection

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:54:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Brennan, N.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Hawaii needs to be as sustainable and have as much locally sourced foods as possible. Every time I am in Safeway or Costco and see bananas for sale that have been imported I wonder why. This should never happen, ie. import foods that clearly we can grow here in Hawaii.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:15:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

02 / 21 / 2021

Members of the Commiitee:

I support HB817 because the pandemic has put a renewed emphasis on the need to fix Hawaii's food system. **We need tangible solutions to growing local food production** by addressing the gaps in our broken food system and supporting local farmers, food procurers, and regenerative and sustainable agriculture as well as our environment.

HB817 requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown and 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.

- The more we source local foods, the more **we support our local farmers and help our economy.**
- Sourcing local food will support access to more **culturally appropriate and nutritious foods.**
- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our **food security.**
- Government departments sourcing local food 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.

I hope you will also support HB817.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:28:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doris McGowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes on HB817 ... for the betterment of our future ... do all these things to help sustainability and keep our organic farmers working ... thank you

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:15:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. It is important support and encourage local agriculture.

Mahalo,

Julia Barzilai

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:42:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is similar to HB767 in that both bills aim is to create steady demand for our farmers products, Creating a continued and sustained demand makes it easier for farmers to do some forward planing in regards to production output and ordering of inputs. We realize that farmers are at the mercy of the weather and so can't bet on a sure thing. However with constant demands from the different State departments can go a long way in assisting our farmers move towards food self reliance .

- The more we source local foods for from the State the more we support our local farmers and help our economy.
- Sourcing local food for different government agencies will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for public school students, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others.
- The effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of establishing our food security.and sovereignty.
- Government departments sourcing local food 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:44:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is critical to supporting our local farmers by directing state agencies to purchase locally grown foods, reducing our need to import food.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:10:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:04:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is JarraeTehani Manasas and I support HB 817 in effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food as a critical part of establishing our food security and supporting our economy. In 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. Mahalo for your time.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:15:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Mackey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of Agriculture sets the standard of practice statewide. Therefore it is imperative they be held to the standard of purchasing a certain percentage of food that is grown in Hawaii to lead by example.

Hawaii is blessed with fertile soils, water, and land where farming and ranching offer great opportunities for generations of Hawaiians. The market for the production must be supported by the state department in order to succeed and help generations of Hawaiians thrive.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:36:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha .It is time for the departments in our government to show support of our very important local food producers by buying from them. It is the only way we will survive in the future.

Thank you for your consideration. Judy Mick, Kailua

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:23:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB 817 HD 2 requiring 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.

This win-win measure for Hawai'i's food producers and state agencies greatly enhances our food self-sufficiency goals while creating a viable economic blueprint for Hawai'i's mandate to increase local food production from the current 10% to at least 20% by the end of the decade.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:19:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it will help to give guaranteed income to our local farmers which will encourage them to continue growing food crops and to expand their production. The pandemic and climate change is proving that Hawaii needs our farmers to grow more food for our local people. This is an excellent way to invest in our farmers and their futures.

Sincerely

Marion McHenry

Princeville

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:58:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB 817 because it requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown and 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.

Please support and pass HB 817.

Thank ou,

Mary Lu Kelley

3644 Lawaiuka Road

Lawai, HI 96765

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:28:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Thelander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One thing the last year has made clear is that we need to put considerably more focus and effort into our local food sustainability and SECURITY and stop relying so much on food shipped in from outside the state. Supporting our local economy and infrastructure, in industries outside of tourism, is critical to supporting our 'ohana and our future.

In this, government departments can lead by example by purchasing from local producers to both support and transform our local agricultural sector and economy.

Beyond growing and supporting our local food security, the less food we ship in the lower our carbon footprint associated with shipping and solid waste production.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:04:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it takes steps toward state departments sourcing their food purchases locally. This helps the local economy and supports growing our local food system.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:25:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure which intends to increase the amount of locally sourced produce. This would benefit Hawaii's farming community, the health of our residents and be more environmentally friendly.

Matt Geyer

Chair - Environmental Justice Task Force of Faith Action for Community Equity.

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:29:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Collin Darrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have experienced first hand the ability to purchase predominantly and exclusively local ingredients to produce a well rounded offering year round in Hawaii through owning Hanai Kauai. Creating a dedicated market for our Farmers is a critical step in developing long standing businesses and relationships. Please support making this happen sooner!

HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:07:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support hb817 hd2



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Luke 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



February 20, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB817 HD2**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB817 HD2**, requiring 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.

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.

This bill will help to better facilitate local food procurement, which is one of the top ways to make meals healthier by increasing nutrient intake. Local food procurement also boosts the flavor of meals, benefits the environment by maintaining farmland and green space, and promotes food safety. The staggered timeline proposed in this bill can help farmers to gradually expand production to meet demand.

This bill can substantially improve diets while supporting our local agriculture community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB817 HD2**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager





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 23, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 817, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB817 HD2

Relating to Agriculture

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 2:00 pm

VIA Video Conference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

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.



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

Date: 02/23/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 817 – Relating to Agriculture
House Committee on Finance
Scheduled for hearing Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2:00PM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 817**, which would require state departments to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased is produced locally.

Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to building a Hawai'i where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security, and this includes our farmworkers and rural communities.

Food programs, including child and senior nutrition programs and other institutional feeding programs run directly by the state, procure tens of millions of dollars' worth of food annually. Unfortunately, most of that is procured from mainland producers. This effort to prioritize the purchase and use of locally-grown food is a critical part of supporting Hawai'i's rural economy. It will also provide equitable access to locally grown products to all Hawai'i residents, rather than just those with the means to spend premium prices for local products.

Due to the immensity of the important work proposed in this bill, we echo other testifiers in our request 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, per the proposal in HB767 HD1.

We understand the difficulties in prioritizing local with the complexity of procurement code. We also believe that it is the work of our institutions and tax payer dollars that has the most profound ability to make a real difference in our island food economy. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

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 FINANCE

FEBRUARY 23, 2021
2:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 817 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Luke 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. Lastly, the Department appreciates the amendment to include "staple starches" in the definition of "produce".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-817-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:02:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this common-sense measure to assist Hawaii's coffee farmers..

Our industry has been rocked by COVID and we are now faciing Coffee Leaf Rust.

BUY LOCAL!

Mahalo!



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 22, 2021

Support of HB 817
FARM TO GOVERNMENT BILL

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

Hawai`i SEED strongly supports HB 817

We support the multiple benefits of growing our food security and eating fresh, quality, locally grown foods to support an increase to local food production. It will also reduce our carbon footprint and shipping costs. In the long run, it is a large savings with many benefits.

The time is now to require each state department to ensure that a percentage of produce purchasing is locally grown. This transition to support locally grown food will be a great help toward local food security while ensuring a consistent market for local farmers.

Please support HB 817 as an important demonstration of government leading by example and to transform our food supply.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai`i SEED
(808) 651-1332

Hawaii Farm to School Program; Farm to School Meals; DOE; DOA

Description: Moves the Hawaii farm to school program from the department of agriculture to the department of education. Establishes a programmatic goal for the department of education that at least thirty percent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030



House Committee on Finance

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

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 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



HIPHI Board

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and Exercise Sciences*

*Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente*

*Catherine Taschner, JD
McCriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon LLP*

Date: February 22, 2021
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawaii Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB817 HD2, Relating to Agriculture
Hearing: February 23, 2021 at 2:00pm in Conference Room 308

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.

Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawaii residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Forceⁱ and the Hawaii Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, 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 Hawaii 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
Hawaii 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 Hawaii residents.

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawaii 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.