



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

LATE

Date: 04/06/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means
Senate Judiciary

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0817, HD2, SD1 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. Requires a report to the legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally grown produce benchmarks. Effective 7/1/2112. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 817, HD2, SD1 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS & MEANS AND JUDICIARY
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 817 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

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

Ulupono supports HB 817 HD 2 SD 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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April 6, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON HB 817, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 211
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

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, SD1, which requires each state department to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by that department is locally-grown and requires a report to the legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally grown produce benchmarks.

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, SD1 which sets goals to increase the required percentage of locally grown produce and value-added food products 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, SD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



April 4, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT for HB817 HD2 SD1**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB817 HD2 SD1**, 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.

We further 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.

This bill can substantially improve diets while supporting our local agriculture community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **HB817 HD2 SD1**.

Colby Takeda
Senior Manager





Kamehameha Schools®

LATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: April 6, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY

By Marissa Harman

Director of Asset Management

RE: **HB 817, HD2, SD1 - Relating to Agriculture**

E nā Luna Ho‘omalua Dela Cruz lāua ‘o Rhoads, nā Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Keith-Agaran lāua ‘o Keohokalole, a me nā Lālā o kēia mau Kōmike, aloha!

Kamehameha Schools **supports HB 817, HD2, SD1**, 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.

Accordingly, we kindly request you **PASS HB 817, HD2, SD1**.

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!

HIPHI Board

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

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente



LATE

Date: April 5, 2021
To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB817 HD2 SD1, Relating to Agriculture
Hearing: April 6, 2021 at 10:00am Via Videoconference

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB817 HD2 SD1**, 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 Forceⁱ and the Hawai'i Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.**

Increased procurement of locally-grown foods by all state agencies will contribute significantly to increasing Hawaii's food security and food self-sufficiency. We encourage continued involvement and increased leadership and coordination of these important farm to state efforts by the **Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.**

We also encourage all state agencies to procure directly from **local food hubs**, which currently aggregate from over 1,000 small farmers across the islands. Many food hubs offer important services such as minimal processing and storage, and are distinguished from other distributors through their sole focus on local sourcing. Direct sourcing from food hubs will strengthen community food systems through the power of farm to state.

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

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.



April 5, 2021

LATE

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Testimony in Support of HB 817, H.D.2, S.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; requires a report to the Legislature on each department's progress toward meeting locally-grown produce benchmarks; effective 7/1/2112.)

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m.; Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 817, H.D.2, S.D.1**, and to offer comments.

HB 817, H.D.2, S.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

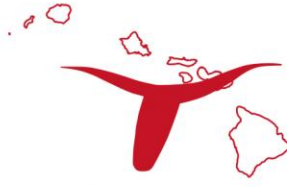
817, H.D.2, S.D.1 will greatly assist with the endeavor to achieve long-term sustainability of Hawaii's food supply, economic growth, and disaster preparedness, including increased production of food for institutions and facilities throughout the State.

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.2, S.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.2, S.D.1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

LATE

HB817 HD2 SD1

Relating to Agriculture

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
VIA Video Conference

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB817 HD2 SD1** to ensure that a certain percentage of the produce purchased by state departments 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 people 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.

HB-817-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:49:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support