



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
2:00 P.M.
House conference room 325 via videoconference

Comments in consideration of
SB 1311 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS.

Chairs Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 1311 SD2 HD1, which requires the department of education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative including annual reports to the legislature.

SB 1311 SD2 HD1 aligns with the State's efforts to expand strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the reduction of energy use, adoption of renewable energy, and control of air pollution among all agencies, departments, industries, and sectors, including transportation. Emissions from ground transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state accounting for over 4 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. For Hawaii to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", policies that support the adoption of cleaner transportation options are necessary and tremendously important.

In 2020 the State of Hawaii along with 14 other states and the District of Columbia were signatories of the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding (MDHD ZEV MOU). The signatories who

represent 50% of the U.S. economy agreed to strive to make sales of all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in their jurisdictions zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) by no later than 2050. In order to ensure adequate progress toward the 2050 goal, the Signatory States strive to make at least 30 percent of all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales in their jurisdictions ZEVs by no later than 2030.

SB1311 SD2 HD1 addresses an important action within the State's power that will advance the goals of the MDHD ZEV MOU. Converting school buses to ZEVs sends a clear signal to the market on Hawaii's commitment to the decarbonization of the ground transportation sector. Per the ICCT October 2020 report "RACE TO ZERO: How manufacturers are positioned for zero emission commercial trucks and buses in North America"¹ battery electric school busses are now available in the market to support a transition of that ground transportation sector. In 2018 Blue Bird was the first legacy original equipment manufacturer to offer a fully electric school bus in the market. Since then Thomas Built Buses (Daimler) and IC Bus (Navistar) have introduced battery-electric busses. Zero-emission vehicle manufacturers GreenPower offers the Synapse 72 School Bus and Lion Electric has three models (LionA, LionC, LionD) covering the various types of school buses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ <https://theicct.org/sites/default/files/publications/Canada-race-to-zero-EN-oct2020.pdf>



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

Date: 03/23/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 325 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Judiciary & Hawaiian
Affairs

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 1311, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative. Requires an annual report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on SB 1311, SD2, HD1.

While the Department supports setting more comprehensive goals to achieving the aims of the Sustainable Schools Initiative, significant financing will be required for successful implementation of the program. This is especially true to achieve the proposed targets related to net-zero energy consumption, zero-emission vehicles, locally sourcing school meals, and food waste outlined in this measures.

Currently, the Department receives no funding from the legislature for the Sustainable Schools Initiative pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 302A-1510 and \$300,000 for the Resource Recovery Program pursuant to Act 207, SLH 2018. The important pursuits in these statutes are vital to effectively meeting the goal of creating more sustainable environments at Department campuses and the Department appreciates the legislature's commitment to further expanding sustainability efforts.

The Department urges the legislature to consider the provision of funding for the Department in ensuring the successful implementation of the important goals in existing laws and those proposed in this measure. For example, net-zero energy consumption is

not economically viable for 90% of the schools based upon load profiles and the ending of net-metering programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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



TESTIMONY OF PLANIT ENVIRONMENTAL VISION + BRANDING
IN REGARD TO SB1311 SD2 HD1,
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS TO BE HEARD BY HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021 2PM

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniela Torres, and I am an account manager for PlanIt, an environmental vision and branding agency located in Honolulu, Hawai'i. We work with businesses that are sustainable but need help with content and messaging as well as businesses which would like to become sustainable. Many of our clients are local businesses with keiki in school, and while they are working hard to change the way businesses operate, there is a major roadblock in education when it comes to an individual's environmental impact- and that needs to start at a young age in school. It is crucial to support the sustainable school's initiative outlined in SB1311 for the future of our keiki, the environment, and the resiliency of our islands. We need to do all that we can to make our islands more resilient and healthier, and that starts with making changes in the DOE.

The elements of the Sustainable Schools initiative are not only feasible, but already underway. While COVID-19 has provided a major set back due to regulation from the DOH and state funding, this is a temporary set back and we will recover, here and everywhere else. It is also important to set metrics in place for the DOE so that they have goals and a clear path that will not falter with the changing of staff. PlanIt **supports** SB1311 SD2 HD1.

Setting 60 percent local food goals can increase food security, create local jobs, support the growth of local agriculture, and decrease Hawai'i's carbon footprint.

Prior to COVID-19, HIDOE was on track for 40 percent local food by 2024 and upon discussion with Dexter Kisha, the previous HIDOE Farm to School Coordinator whose position has still not been filled, a goal of 60 percent local produce and 60 percent local animal proteins is entirely achievable. As an island, we are currently importing roughly 90%¹ of the foods we consume as a whole at a cost of approximately \$3 billion, leaving our islands and schools vulnerable, should an unpredictable shipping problem occur. HIDOE, however, had already been incorporating 30 percent local ingredients into school meals and working with farmers statewide to supply more

¹ http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf

food items based upon FDA food requirements, increasing both jobs and food security. If they could do it previously, they will be able to do it again.

The goals of HIDOE are in line with an overall growing trend in the federal DOE that shares a push towards local foods. According to the USDA, they already “encourage a push for school districts to use locally-produced foods in school meals and to use "farm-to-school" activities to spark students' interest in trying new foods.” They even established an official Farm to School Grant Program² as well as a grant program to help schools purchase kitchen equipment to help them provide healthier school meals. Hawai’i is one of the only states that has a growing season of 365 days/year and having this advantage truly allows for HIDOE to focus on local food production.

Setting local food production goals for proteins and produce means that both local farmers and fisherman can benefit. Currently, HIDOE offers no seafood options, but in their quest for local foods and the knowledge that seafood is more readily available than any other protein source, they are already testing seafood dishes. Additionally, 100% of HIDOE’s had always been (prior to COVID-19 restrictions) fresh beef products, which are already locally produced, so a shift from proteins like chicken to seafood could allow HIDOE to easily hit a 60 percent target.

There is a large environmental impact attached to food imports, and low prices provided through massive companies abroad undercut the prices of local farmers. By making these shifts to more local foods through HIDOE, we are paving the path for increased local food production and support overall for the entire state. Additionally, by adding this requirement we are creating an increased demand for local produce which will further stimulate the local farming economy, and with economies of scale, should drive down prices.

There is a direct correlation between local ingredients, fresh food, and local recipes, and overall waste reduction.

In 2018, Mililani Schools launched a pilot program that analyzed the effects of changing ingredients and recipes on waste reduction. Traditionally, DOE schools serve prepackaged meals with minimal prep, but with food waste rates so high, Mililani wanted to test “scratch cook,” or, cooking with fresh ingredients, in the schools to see how the change would impact waste. After a food waste audit was conducted, the research showed that Mililani high school students wasted 19 percent of their meal daily, while students at Mililani Uka elementary schools wasted 35 percent, and Mililani Waena Elementary School wasted 32 percent. When the scratch cooking program was tested, the percentages of food changed from 60 percent processed to 60 percent scratch cooking, with an increase from 20 percent to 40 percent local ingredients. These menu changes reflected in a 40 percent waste reduction overall. To measure scratch cooking meals directly against processed meals within the same time period, styles of food were interspersed

² <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-school-grant-program>

throughout the week. The audit during this time revealed that students threw away 9–21 percent less food on days they were served freshly prepared meals.

Making shifts to local ingredients and fresh foods additionally provides an opportunity for schools to teach students about nutrition, local agriculture, Hawaiian culture, food waste, plant life cycles, and more.

A zero emissions goal for all school transportation is feasible and essential to decrease our dependency on oil and move towards a net zero carbon state.

As a state, we have some of the highest fuel costs in the country. These costs are due to the distance oil must travel to Hawaii, a state that produces NO fossil fuels, but endless renewable energy sources- sun, wind, hydro, and geothermal. It only makes sense as a community to use the energy sources we have been provided with, which happen to also cause little to no harm in comparison to fossil fuels. School buses only last so long, so requiring that any new school buses purchased are electric, will not lead to any wasted vehicles, and will not be an extraordinary ask. Ultimately, these buses will save the schools money, which is something essential for a state operating at a \$5 billion deficit. Additionally, buses emit a lot more hazardous fumes than cars due to their size and the amount of fuel used. Eliminating gasoline-powered buses will also provide cleaner air for us to breathe.

It is only fitting that the school transportation move to zero emissions when the buildings have already set the target of net zero energy, and that happened six years ago.

Integration of sustainability into curriculum allows for more creative freedom for teachers, Hawaiian place-based learning, project-based learning, increased environmental awareness, and increased student engagement.

In 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui was formed and in 2017 it became a part of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.³ This hui provides resources to HIDOE schools including garden safety, foodservice tips, curriculum ideas, Āina Pono, and the Garden to Cafeteria Program. While this Hui is already there, it is underutilized as a whole and requires more support from a state level to reach its full potential and provide what it can for all HIDOE schools.

This bill will give that further support and resources for the hui, students and teachers, and provides aid to those looking for a way to start these changes.

³ <https://www.hiphi.org/farmentoschool/>

According to the Green Schools Alliance,⁴ “students spend the majority of their day in a school building during their most crucial developmental years. [...] The journey to that goal begins with educating students in a healthy and sustainable environment.” The underlying goal for this bill is to make all DOE schools Net Zero Energy Green Schools by 2035, a first attempt of its kind in the nation. As defined by USGBC Center for Green Schools, “All green schools share three common goals: reduced environmental impact, increased health and well-being, increased environmental and sustainability literacy for all graduates.”⁵ Our children are already more environmentally aware than many adults and it is a topic amongst the youth thanks to global youth leaders such as Greta Thunberg and local leaders such as Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition. Students around the world are demanding sustainability education in schools and working with their schools and student body to find ways to decrease their school’s environmental footprint.

PlanIt **supports** SB1311 SD2 HD1 and we urge these committees to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Daniela Torres
PlanIt Environmental Vision + Branding

⁴ <https://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/home>

⁵ <https://www.centerforgreenschools.org/what-green-school>

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:55:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am a 19-year-old student living in Ala Moana, and I am testifying in support of SB1311 on behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition.

It is critically important that we not only teach sustainability in schools, but that we also practice it in schools. This bill would codify the importance of efforts that many students and teachers are already undertaking to increase the self sufficiency of their campuses. The sooner we set these goals, the more resilient we will become in the face of an undeniable climate crisis. I hope you will consider our testimony and pass SB1311.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:51:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Good for our students, our community, our economy, and our environment. This is how to move forward to decarbonizing our State - one sector at a time.



To: The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 2:00 pm

In strong support of SB1311 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the JHA Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii's 6,000 members **strongly support SB1311 SD2 HD1** which requires the department of education establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative.

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now. As an island state, Hawaii is ground zero for climate devastation, from more intense storms, to food insecurity, to rising seas and shoreline destruction.

And let's be clear. Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future. Climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose. **Children living today will live to see a 1.5°C warmer world because of the failure of adults to take real action when there still was time to do so.** Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change.

If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children. We need efforts like those described in SB1311 SD2 HD1 across all sectors of our society, and we need them in earnest.

In closing, I wish to share the words of a young climate activist who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Greta Thunberg.

“Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people, to give them hope, but I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.”

It is time to act now, not after our house has burned to the ground.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1311 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Sustainable Schools

Dear Chair Nakashima 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 SB 1311 SD 2 HD 1, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Ulupono supports the State's efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement. The State currently maintains goals for 100% clean energy by 2045 and doubling local food production by 2030. Each state department and agency should find ways to lead by example in meeting these sustainable goals. The DOE can make a strong impact for the State by making these statements and policies a reality through the Sustainable Schools Initiative. The DOE can also benefit from teaching our keiki about the importance of clean energy and transportation and local food production, creating a more resilient future for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

March 23, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1311, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Conference Room 325
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, 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 SB 1251, SD1, which adds a target of a farm-to-school meal goal of sixty percent of the food served in public schools to be locally sourced as part of the sustainable schools initiative.

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

HFB appreciates the intent of SB 1311, SD2, HD1, which sets a goal to increase the percentage of locally grown produce that the department of education must source for their meals. 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 SB 1311, SD2, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:09:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair, the Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB1311 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawaii to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. We **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1311 SD2 HD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Education to establish locally sourced food and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative.

Hawai'i imports more than six million pounds of food on a daily basis at a cost of more than \$3,000,000,000 per year. An increase in locally sourced produce would simultaneously improve food quality and public health, boost the local economy, improve overall food sustainability, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from importing food. With proper farming practices, growing local food can also sequester carbon in the soil.

Traditional internal combustion school bus engines emit exhaust, which children breathe in while riding buses and sitting in traffic, and can increase asthma and other health

problems. In contrast, electric school buses provide potential benefits to the quality of student health, the environment, utility infrastructure, and cost savings. Additionally, electric buses have lower operational, maintenance, and labor costs than comparable buses powered by internal combustion engines. SB 1311 SD2 HD1 aligns with the State's efforts to expand strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the reduction of energy use, adoption of renewable energy, and control of air pollution among all agencies, departments, industries, and sectors, including transportation. Emissions from ground transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state accounting for over 4 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Policies that support the adoption of cleaner transportation options are necessary and tremendously important for Hawai'i to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045."

This measure will engage students in sustainable living through establishing the goals of locally sourcing sixty percent of school food and providing students with zero-emission transportation in the future.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORT** passage of SB1311 SD2 HD1!
Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 23, 2021, 2:00 P.M.

Video Conference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1311 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 1311 SD2 HD1**, which sets goals for the Department of Education to locally source food in school meals and transition to zero-emission vehicles for school-related transportation as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative.

Blue Planet Foundation is a Hawai'i-based nonprofit organization. We work to clear the path for local, clean, renewable power. Through our advocacy for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation, we seek to make our communities stronger, our energy more secure, our environment healthier, and our economy more robust.

Adding additional goals for clean transportation and local food sourcing can create healthier communities and reduce our persistent, costly, and carbon-intensive reliance on imported fossil fuels to power our school vehicles and imported food to feed our keiki. What's more, by adding these goals to the Sustainable Schools Initiative's existing target of achieving net-zero energy use, SB 1311 encourages the state government to lead by example in our transition to a more resilient future. In turn, students are offered valuable lessons about health, culture, and the climate impacts of our food and transportation choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 12:44:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On Behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of [SB1311 Sustainable Schools Initiative](#).

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Please vote for and pass [SB1311](#).

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dave Mulinix

Cofounder & Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



HIPHI Board

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William S. Richardson School
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LD
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Agriculture and Human
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 22, 2021
To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for SB1311 SD2 HD1, Relating to Sustainable Schools
Hearing: March 23, 2021 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB1311 SD2 HD1**, which requires the department of education to source 60% of the animal protein and produce for school meals locally by 2035, to establish zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative, and to report annually to the legislature.

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 for consumption by Hawaii's students will have a positive impact on the health of children and youth and the development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. We appreciate the addition of local food procurement as part of the vision and plan for sustainable schools.

We also affirm the **critical importance of curricular integration** of 'āina-based sustainability concepts and practices, as a foundation for Hawaii's social, economic, and environmental recovery and resiliency.

Thank you for your strong support of sustainable schools through farm to school!

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.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:01:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the director of Farm to Keiki, a farm to school organization in Hawai'i. **I am writing to strongly support this bill.**

By increasing the procurement of locally grown food in Hawaii's schools, children will be fed the proper nutrients they need to grow and thrive. Local food is essential to achieving both healthy children and sustainable and resilient food systems in Hawai'i. There is a critical need for integrate sustainability curriculum into our schools if we ever want our children to continue these practices in their daily lives.

Mahalo for supporting this bill!

Tiana Kamen,

Farm to Keiki, Director

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:59:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Chatterson	Zero Waste Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima and JHA Committee Members,

As the Executive Director of Zero Waste O'ahu, a resident of Mānoa, and a former educator I write in strong support of SB1311 SD2 HD1. This fantastic measure that will uplift local agriculture, promote clean transportation, and ensure a healthier future for a keiki.

Please pass the measure for the sake of our 'Āina and for the sake of our keiki.

E mānoa pono,

Nicole Chatterson



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 23, 2021

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Matayoshi, and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SB1311 HD1 – RELATING SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m., Room 325 via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee and Human Environmental Impacts Committee are in strong support of SB1311 HD 1 which requires the department of education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative. This bill also requires an annual report to the legislature.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to promote food security as provided at pages 9 and 10 which provide as follows:

“We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species-free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.”

“We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation. Therefore, we support County, State, and Federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. We support initiatives that will provide our State with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the



March 23, 2021

Page 2

integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.”

As this bill is supported by the 2018 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform, we urge you to pass this bill as it requires the department of education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative. This bill also requires an annual report to the legislature.

Please pass this important legislation.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: burdick808@gmail.com

Melodie R. Aduja
Char, Health Committee
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:26:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

I support because this bill says it will require the department of education to establish food waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative. Requires an annual report to the legislature.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 5:51:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Joan here from South Kona asking you to please pass SB1311 a sustainable school initiative. These efforts will increase energy efficiencies, have clean transportation and green local food procurement. This will promote good health for students, a good local economy as well as improving the health of our planet.

Thank you and good luck with your important work.

Joan Gannon

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 8:25:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu currently living in Māhalele in my ancestral homelands. I support SB131.

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Support SB1311.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 11:25:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support SB 1311 SD 2 HD 1, which requires the Department of Education to operate in a manner that is more environmentally sustainable by: (1) Locally sourcing 60% of protein and 60% of produce in school meals by 2035; and (2) Transitioning to zero-emission vehicles for school-related transportation by 2035.

Climate change is accelerating, and human-induced global warming has already led global temperatures to rise an average of one degree Centigrade over preindustrial levels. Further temperature increases would lead to widespread drought, crop failures, floods, wildfires, energy blackouts, infrastructure breakdowns, supply chain breakdowns, and infectious disease outbreaks that would be devastating and irreversible. Hawaii must do much more to reduce its consumption of fossil fuels and replace it with clean renewable energy in order to do its share to control climate change.

Hawaii is currently importing roughly 90% of the foods consumed in the state. All of these foods have an element of fossil fuel because transportation to Hawaii, whether by plane or by ship, burns fossil fuel. The State has a goal of doubling local food production by 2030. Requiring 60% of protein and produce in school meals to be locally produced by 2035 demonstrates the leadership of State agencies in leading the way toward achieving this goal.

This bill is consistent with efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage school districts to use locally-produced foods in school meals. In this regard, the USDA has a grant program to help schools purchase kitchen equipment to help them provide healthier school meals. Hawaii is one of the few states with a year 'round growing season, and Hawaii has an abundance of unused agricultural land. This bill will reduce Hawaii's use of fossil fuel, improve food security, and improve nutrition among Hawaii's children.

The State currently maintains a goal of 100% clean energy by 2045. Ground transportation uses more than one-fourth of the petroleum imported into Hawaii. Cars and buses are available in electric form, and electric vehicles are financially viable because the total cost of ownership is lower for electric vehicles than those powered by fossil fuels.

This bill should be one of multiple bills passed by the Legislature to enable Hawaii to do its part to control climate change.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:46:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill because efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy. Mahalo

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:51:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support SB1311 SD2 HD1.

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 4:44:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwendellyn Cruise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1311. Please support children's health.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 7:00:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which benefits our students, our economy and the health of our aina.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:00:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha TRUSTED Lawmakers

This one's easy: if you love Keiki vote YES! If you want to keep poisoning them vote no:

Forbes recently reported Fossil Fuel Pollution Kills 8.7 Million People a year, TWICE AS MANY AND PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT!!! I'm NOT ok with this

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/scottcarpenter/2021/02/10/fossil-fuel-air-pollution-kills-nearly-as-many-as-cancer-study-finds/?sh=51e4c6c31dba> and neither should you be! I want you to be ANGRY about this too and ACT, PLEASE ACT!!! Oh, if you're looking for ways to save money: Ford's CEO recently explained how the All-Electric F-150, starting production next year, will save Fleet owners over 40%!!! Any fleet, Rentals, State, County, Police, Lifeguards, etc. In a budget shortfall? Here's a 40% savings you can put into motion, today!

Imua>>>

Steve Parsons, Kauai Resident, Wailua

Core Member Kauai Climate ACTION Coalition

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:53:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:11:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Mahalo.

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:18:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Efforts to increase energy efficiencies, clean transportation, and local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, in addition to avoiding exposure to toxic exhaust emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles via the electrification of our school buses. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy.

Mahalo

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:06:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear JHA Chair Nakashima, JHA Vice Chair Matayoshi and JHA Committee members,

I strongly support the first two goals of SB1311 SD2 and have suggested a modification for the third goal:

Goals of this bill:

1 - Becoming net-zero with respect to energy use, i.e., producing as much renewable energy as the department consumes across all public school facilities by January 1, 2035

2 - Transitioning to zero-emission vehicles for all school-related transportation, including any contracts for transportation by January 1, 2035

And the third goal as modified:

3 - Locally sourcing 60% of all animal proteins and 60% of all produce purchased for meals offered in public schools, as measured by the percentage of funds spent on each annually by January 1, 2035*.

* Include the protein amount from ALL foods served—not just the meats. Cutting back on meat, cheese, eggs and cow’s milk by substituting other forms of protein (nuts, beans, lentils, seeds: hemp, chia, flax, tofu, tempeh (Indian soy product), oats, quinoa, and soy/almond/oat milk) is beneficial for the climate and offers new, healthy food choices to our keiki.

There are at least three “wins” in this bill:

- Keiki learn about renewable vs fossil fuel energy sources and will see it in action by the adults around them; they will also experience new and healthy local foods.

- Less air pollution from school buses and other DOE vehicles means healthier children

- Keiki learn that food waste can be turned into “black gold” (aka, compost) that can be sold for a profit or used in their school or backyard gardens. Note: (I did not see a

mention of food waste composting as a goal in SB1311 SD2 HD1, although waste was mentioned in the bill's summary. This would be an excellent goal to implement, so I hope it can be reinstated.)

I also support the cooling of classrooms ASAP as each year is becoming warmer. Children need to be in a comfortable environment to learn.

Please support this important bill (SB1311 SD2 HD1).

Thank you for listening and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:50:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes! Strongly support. Our keiki know instinctively what is happening on our planet and realize we need to move quickly toward measures that honor and support life, justice and health. Please do right by our keiki and moopuna and those to come after them by supporting this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:00:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators

This bill promotes an integrated approach to the social transition that we need to make.

It promotes our young people's health, potentially reducing obesity and other entirely-avoidable and costly health conditions. It also supports local farmers and food security, while reducing our dependence on the energy-intensive global food economy.

Please help pass this bill.

Thank you,

Jerry Riverstone

Maui

SB-1311-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:44:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Eve Solomon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB1311 SD2 HD1 that requires the Department of Education to establish food-waste and zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable schools initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am a voter.

Rebecca Eve Solomon, 6514 Kalama Rd., Kapaa, HI 96746