



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

Date: 04/06/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: SCR 0038, SD1 URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR THE 'AINA PONO HAWAII STATE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND/OR SERVICES FROM FOOD HUBS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) understands the importance of Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013 to increase purchasing and use of Hawaii grown food and food products to support the State's agricultural economy. The Department supports the intent of SCR 0038, SD1, as it relates to increasing the purchase of local agricultural products that promote local farmers and encourages the agricultural industry.

This resolution urges the Department to procure "goods and/or services from food hubs." The Department has concerns regarding how food hubs are being defined in this resolution. The Department must adhere to both Federal and State procurement guidelines, particularly for small purchase procurements, which employ a more restrictive threshold.

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.

SCR-38-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 7:23:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglass S. Adams	Research and Development, County of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Education:

The Department of Research & Development, County of Hawaii, wholeheartedly supports this bill. Food distribution during this pandemic emergency has required the dedicated support of food hubs on the Island of Hawaii. These hubs have demonstrated their capability to ensure the provision of quality, nutritious, locally-grown food to island families and youth. As the County of Hawaii works towards a more secure food future, we will depend ever more heavily on our local producers. These producers and the food aggregation hubs they use to distribute their products can and should be a major contributor to the Department of Education's 'Aina Pono Hawaii state farm to school program. I encourage the Committee to forward this bill with a recommendation for passage by the House.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams, Director



SCR38 SD1

URGING THE HAWAI‘I STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR THE ‘ĀINA PONO HAWAI‘I STATE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND/OR SERVICES FROM FOOD HUBS.

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘ona‘auao
House Committee on Education

Apelila 6, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the strategies proposed in SCR38 SD1, which would urge the Department of Education’s School Food Services Branch to adopt an addendum to its agreements for the ‘Āina Pono Hawai‘i State Farm to School Program (‘Āina Pono Program), to allow for the procurement of goods and/or services from food hubs. **OHA appreciates this resolution’s support of the ‘Āina Pono Program, which seeks to source and serve high quality, nutritious school meals by maximizing fresh and local foods as much as possible, encouraging scratch cooking, tapping into local culture and tradition, and supporting school gardens that connect students with the origins of their food.**

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies that can reduce health and social inequities of Native Hawaiians, including the disproportionately higher incidents of chronic health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease as well as the higher rate of cancer within the Native Hawaiian community. Accordingly, OHA appreciates that the ‘Āina Pono Program seeks to incorporate a healthy diet as a standard experience for Hawai‘i’s school children, including the substantial number of Native Hawaiian students in our public school system, and instill in them good eating habits from a young age. OHA notes that health professionals have indicated that a healthy diet can prevent or treat chronic illnesses and that a successful and broadly-applied ‘Āina Pono Program would accordingly benefit the overall health of Hawai‘i’s keiki into their adult lives.¹

This resolution addresses barriers to the successful, broader implementation of the ‘Āina Pono Program. In its 2015 report, “Local Foods in Hawai‘i’s Schools,” the Kohala Center identified **supply issues** as a major barrier to implementing farm to school

¹ Centers for Disease Control National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Poor Nutrition, <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/factsheets/nutrition.htm> (last accessed April 1, 2021).

programs, noting local farmers' access to affordable agricultural inputs and food safety regulations as two of several factors impacting local food production.² As noted in the report, food hubs³ are a good solution for these particular challenges, by facilitating bulk purchasing, product aggregation, and cost-sharing to reduce the costs of agricultural inputs, and by providing food safety-certified facilities and processing services to help local farms overcome the costs and barriers of food safety compliance requirements.⁴ **By identifying and uplifting the use of food hubs as a source of supply for the 'Āina Pono Program, this resolution will help to further its successful, broader implementation, and thereby promote the health and well-being of our keiki.**

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR38 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

² THE KOHALA CENTER, LOCAL FOODS IN HAWAII'S SCHOOLS 4 (2015), available at https://kohalacenter.org/docs/reports/2015_LocalFoodHawaiiSchools.pdf.

³ The working definition of a food hub is "a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products." Jim Barham, *Getting to Scale with Regional Food Hubs*, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE BLOG, Feb. 21, 2017, available at <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2010/12/14/getting-scale-regional-food-hubs>.

⁴ THE KOHALA CENTER, *supra* note 2, at 5.



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April 6, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SCR 38/SR 27

URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR THE 'AINA PONO HAWAII STATE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND/OR SERVICES FROM FOOD HUBS

Via Videoconference
Conference Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SCR 38/SR 27.

HFB is pleased that this resolution recognizes the value of our local farmers and ranchers and the work they do to increase the consumption of fresh and nutritious local foods while decreasing Hawaii's reliance on imported foods. We especially appreciate your efforts to increase local farmers' ability to have access to broader markets, including the State's Farm to School Program, which will also benefit Hawai'i's children.

Small farmers typically do not have access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge to small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), jeopardizing the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawaii, additional challenges to small farmers include high costs in land, labor, and energy, as well as limited access to water supply for irrigation. **Food hubs** are an important subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets on their own, and consequently miss out on the fastest-growing

segment of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

HFB supports food hubs and the opportunities they provide for some of Hawai'i's producers to participate in the DOE Farm to School Program.

Thank you for your support of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

HIPHI Board

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Date: April 5, 2021
To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for SCR38 SD1 (HIDOE 'Aina Pono/Food Hubs)
Hearing: April 6, 2021 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SCR38 SD1**, urging the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) School Food Services Branch to adopt an addendum to its agreements for the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program requiring the procurement of goods and/or services from food hubs.

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.**

We thank the legislature for recognizing the crucial efforts made by food hubs to aggregate on behalf of Hawaii's small farmers. Fourteen food hubs that are part of the Food Hub Hui 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.

Food hubs must play a central and direct role in meeting Hawaii's goals for increased local food procurement by HIDOE, thereby strengthening community food systems through the power of farm to school.

As HIDOE explores a regionalized model for central kitchens, the state must take care to not obstruct or duplicate the efforts of food hubs. Procurement must also be further regionalized from the state/island-level, allowing a fair chance for food hubs to source directly to HIDOE, instead of through existing large-scale distributors.

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school and Hawaii's food hubs!

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.

SCR-38-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 4:59:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/6/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support 100%