



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1568 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

REP. AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: February 2, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund expenditure to purchase foods that are likely
2 more expensive than current inventories.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this measure,
4 which is to improve Hawaii's food security and enhance the local economy. However, the two
5 entities to which this measure would apply will have negligible benefits:

- 6 • The Hawaii State Hospital's facility license is a maximum 273 patients.
- 7 • The Kalauapapa Settlement on Molokai has a patient census of 9 individuals.
- 8 • The sum of these two populations is .0002% of the State's population.

9 DOH respectfully requests the Legislature to reconsider the inclusion of the department, at least
10 at this early stage.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12 **Offered Amendments:**

13



**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1568, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1568, House Draft 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's FQHCs. FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would require the Departments of Defense, Education, Health, and Public Safety, and the University of Hawaii System to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased in public school, public hospitals, public prisons, and University of Hawaii facilities be fresh, local agricultural products and local value-added processed, agricultural products.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2112.

Over the past five years, HPCA has served as a member of the Obesity Prevention Task Force, and as such has joined the Hawaii Public Health Institute and other advocates in support of efforts to promote healthy diets and the increased consumption of locally-grown vegetables and fruits in our schools and communities.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1568, House Draft 1
Tuesday, February 15, 2022; 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

Because the State purchases so much food for the daily operations of public schools, hospitals, prisons, and higher education facilities, it is prudent and essential for government to spend its limited resources within the State to ensure that these funds are circulated through local businesses and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a bill like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to respond to unforeseen economic downturns. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to utilize more locally-grown food.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1568 HD 1, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Johanson 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 the 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 1568 HD 1, which changes the law requiring all State departments to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products to apply only to the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH System. This bill also requires each of those departments and the UH System to report to the Legislature on its progress toward meeting these benchmarks and clarifies the information to be reported.

Ulupono supports the State leading by example in purchasing 100% locally grown, raised and harvested local food as part of institutional purchases. This bill seeks to provide a few housekeeping updates to Act 176, SLH 2021, by adding clarifying language around local food and targeting institutional purchase goals with the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH System. These agencies represent the bulk of state institutional food purchases.

We appreciate the continued commitment by the State to support local farmers and ranchers with a consistent market, and keeping State money here in the islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 15, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1568, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 1568, HD1, which changes the law requiring all state departments to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products to apply only to the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH System. It also requires each of those departments and the UH System to report to the legislature on its progress toward meeting these benchmarks and clarifies the information to be reported.

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

HFB appreciates the intent of Act 176 SLH 2021 (HB 817, HD2, SD1) which established benchmarks to increase the required percentage of locally grown produce and value-added food products that all departments must purchase. The changes proposed to ACT 176 SLH make the implementation of the local purchase requirement more practical.

We believe that policies, investments, and resources that support agriculture are necessary to ensure that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers can supply the produce and food products to meet the goals established in Act 176 SLH and in this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
February 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

by
Jan Gouveia
Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1568 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HB 1568 HD1. This bill would amend Act 176, SLH 2021, by changing the requirement of all state departments to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products to apply only to the DOE, DOH, PSD, and UH System.

The University wholeheartedly supports the growth of local agriculture in our state in an effort to reduce our dependence on importing food and contribute to the State's economy. However, most, if not all, of the University's food contracts with vendors are concession-type agreements that support a business model in which the food service provider conducts business with the end consumer. As such, a strict requirement to purchase locally sourced food or agricultural products primarily impacts the end consumer, namely students, by passing on higher costs.

Furthermore, the University is concerned that its ability to source food locally will be restricted by the availability of the local food supply. As such, purchasing up to 50% of its food locally may be unachievable. Some of the University's contracts with vendors have already implemented a "local first" policy. However, at best, this results in approximately 30% of food purchased locally due to supply constraints. Additionally, there are a number of other challenges to purchasing food locally. For example, farms may not meet our vendors' required purchasing standards or be willing to complete the process to become an approved vendor, which is accompanied by insurance and distribution requirements; and the University's food needs are generally highest from Fall through Spring and lowest in the Summer, which is generally the peak of the local food supply.

Given that the University supports the intent of this bill, but has the above concerns, it respectfully requests the language of the bill be revised to either institute a local-first policy or allow for exceptions when it is not practicable to meet the local food requirements posed by this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Date: February 14, 2022
To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT with amendments for HB1568 HD1, Relating to Agriculture
Hearing: February 15, 2022 at 2:00pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1568 HD1 with amendments**, which changes the law requiring all state departments to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products to apply only to the DOE, DOH, PSD, DOD, and UH System; requires each of those departments and the UH System to report to the legislature on its progress toward meeting these benchmarks; and clarifies the information to be reported.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to **require reporting on the total purchases and total local purchases by produce category** (as reported by the Department of Public Safety in the table on page 4 of the [Governor's Report to the 2022 Legislature on Act 176, SLH 2021](#)).

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities 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) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates this Committee's strong support of farm to state, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing HB1568 HD1 with the requested amendments.

Me Ke Aloha,
Lydi Bernal
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

HB-1568-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:40:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	No

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports this Bill. Mahalo nui!



COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HB1568 HD1
Relating to Agriculture

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Ling, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1568 HD1** to change the law requiring all state departments to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products to apply only to the DOE, DOH, PSD, and UH System. Requires each of those departments and the UH System to report to the legislature on its progress toward meeting these benchmarks and clarifies the information to be reported. We would support a future expansion of appropriate state departments to follow suit as these departments, which purchase large amounts of agricultural products, streamline the process and work to increase local purchasing while producers increase supply.

We appreciate the inclusion of livestock products, as Hawaii's cattle producers are poised to increase production of local beef with the increase of harvest and processing capacity and the increase of demand for products. We also support the required reporting of purchases, as data on local food purchasing has been scant, but could help us to get onto the path of increased food production.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HB-1568-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:48:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zoe	Mala'ai	Support	No

Comments:

We need these updates to Act 176 in order to be successful!

HB-1568-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:35:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Should Be for Everyone!!

HB-1568-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:42:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support of legislation that forwards the agenda providing fresh local, nutritious and safe produce and value-added products for our keiki, faculty and school staffs.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1568, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329; Via Videoconference)

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) opposes House Bill (HB) 1568, House Draft (HD) 1, which amends Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, requiring PSD to ensure that a certain percentage of food purchased consists of fresh, local agricultural products or local value-added, processed, agricultural, or food products.

The Department's Food Services Branch does make an effort to purchase local agricultural products and would be willing to increase its purchasing of local agricultural products, but that is unfeasible under current conditions. Bearing in mind that PSD is operating with a lean budget and local food products are generally more expensive (sometimes up to triple the cost), the Department would not be able to meet the proposed benchmarks or will require a significant increase in its budget to do so.

In FY 2020-21, PSD's Food Services Branch spent approximately \$7.2 million on food products, including approximately \$213,700 in local food

products, equaling 2.97% for the fiscal year. HB 1568, HD 1 calls for the purchase of local foods to constitute 10% of total foods purchased by January 1, 2025, increasing by 8% in each succeeding 5-year period – 18% by January 1, 2030, 26% by January 1, 2035, 34% by January 1, 2040, 42% by January 1, 2045, to 50% by January 1, 2050. These benchmarks would be impossible for PSD to meet.

While supporting local agricultural producers by increasing the purchasing of local foods seems to be a laudable goal, other factors related to the availability of the local food supplies need to be taken into account, such as:

- 1) Not all the needed crops can be grown in Hawaii at market scale or at all. Hawaii's subtropical climate is not conducive to growing foods more readily grown in temperate climates, e.g., carrots, celery, potatoes, etc.
- 2) The quantities of foods produced locally are small, and sufficient supplies are not available on a consistent basis. PSD's Food Service Branch plans its menus and purchasing well in advance, but the process breaks down if the supplies are inadequate or unavailable. The Department must have reliable supplies and moderate costs to function.

In the statewide correctional facilities, food products such as chicken, pork, beef, onions, potatoes, celery, carrots, apples, and oranges account for a large percentage of the food purchases. These basic item quantities are not available locally, and if they are, they are not competitively priced to be able to meet PSD's food budget. These items must be imported, as we are not in position to wait for local vendors to receive their goods. In the event of natural disasters (e.g., hurricane, tsunami, flooding, etc.), it is PSD's responsibility to ensure each facility maintains emergency food supplies.

PSD supports inmate farming and uses produce grown by inmates at various correctional facilities such as the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) and the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF). The Corrections Program Services has a

contract with the University of Hawaii at Manoa “Go Farm” to provide education to inmates on basic agricultural education and “farm-to-table” processes, so it needs to be understood, the Department is trying to do its part to support local.

Lastly, similar to the University of Hawaii, PSD notes it does also provide staff meals at the facilities to its correctional officers and civil servants in addition to providing inmate meals. However, it is likely that the Department feeds a higher proportion of staff than does UH, since its facilities are closed, secure facilities with fewer nearby food service options for staff.

HB 1568, HD 1 seems to be well-intentioned, but is unworkable, in the Department’s view. PSD, therefore, respectfully asks that the bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HB-1568-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 11:28:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morris Atta	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I am available to answer questions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.