



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN**  
**TESTIMONY**  
**ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1568**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

REP. ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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 Government Reform  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1568, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, 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, 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 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.

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**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 9:30 a.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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



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

February 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1568**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Wildberger, 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**, 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, 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, and poultry 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.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 — 9:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1568, Relating to Agriculture**

Dear Chair McKelvey 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**, 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, and UH System. **Director of Government Affairs** 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, 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*



COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

**HB1568**  
Relating to Agriculture

Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022, 9:30 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, 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 on HB1568** 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 appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:00:18 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Coffee Association supports this measure.

Mahalo!





# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

January 31, 2022

To: The House Committee on Government Reform

Subject: HB1568, Support with Amendments

Aloha,

Mahalo for hearing this testimony to **support HB1568 with amendments.**

Our organization supported the creation of Act 176 last year, and now we support the intent of HB1568 to get the ball rolling and begin to implement Act 176's changes to state procurement practices. Increasing local food procurement is a win-win idea that can have a virtuous effect on developing local agriculture and the local economy.

While it is clear that HB1568 would set up needed requirements and reporting for the top four departments with the highest food purchasing, we are disappointed that local food procurement requirements would not extend to all principal departments as was passed into law last year. We believe that everyone individually and all institutions can do their part to support local, regenerative agriculture.

Furthermore, we ask that **this bill require departments and UH reporting on the following:**

- Status of the department's progress in meeting the local percentage procurement goal
- Total spending on consumable foods
- Total spending on produce (as defined in the current statute)
- Total local purchase spending
- For departments that do direct purchasing and food preparation, total purchases and total local purchases by produce category, (as demonstrated by the exemplary and clear reporting by the Department of Public Safety). Namely:

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2022

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Coffee
- Staple Starches
- Eggs
- Poultry & Poultry Products
- Livestock (Beef)
- Livestock (Pork)
- Milk & Milk Products
- Aquacultural and maricultural products
- For departments that only purchased food in the form of prepared meals from third-party vendors, an estimate use/purchase of local produce/products (as demonstrated in the reporting of the Department of Defense)
- If the department or UH did not meet the relevant benchmark, an explanation of why

Mahalo for considering these amendments to the reporting metrics.

aloha,  
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Interns  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2022, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Date: February 1, 2022  
To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Government Reform  
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator  
Re: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS for HB1568, Relating to Agriculture  
Hearing: February 2, 2022 at 9:30am Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1568 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, 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](#)).

Additionally, it may be beneficial to **continue requiring compliance and reporting from all state departments**, so that purchases of local produce in the form of prepared meals from third-party vendors will also be captured (as demonstrated by the Department of Defense on page 8 of the [report](#), which if omitted would have missed an estimated \$567,000 in local produce/produce purchases).

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.

Thank you for your strong support of increased local food procurement through farm to state!

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

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:45:59 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 1568.

We must support as much food as we can to be grown in Hawai'i. Small and medium sized farmers need the security of large committed buyers for their agricultural products.

Why spend money to ship food here when a hefty portion of it can be produced here, supporting the farmers and the local economy? With climate change and environmental disasters, we need to be as self sufficient as possible. We also need to consider the factor in the carbon footprint of importing food from other places.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, Maui

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:58:23 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bronson Azama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How can we encourage our communities to "buy local" if our officials cannot hold themselves to the same standards?

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:21:57 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I originally moved to Hawaii in 1973 and have devoted my life since then to education, grades 6-12, up until 2008 when I took an early retirement from Seabury Hall on the island of maui and embarked upon my current adventure building school gardens, K-12, in maui county schools. I eventually joined the Local Food Coalition and the Hawaii Farm to School Hui.

My primary purpose was to help our haumana return to the āina to the extent that they could become capable of growing their own food in a way that replenished the soil and respected the environment through resiliency and self-reliance in the process.

Over the years it seemed as if commercial agriculture for export was a primary focus for our state along with the tourist industry as ways of providing funding for our state government but there was something that wasn't working with this framework and HB 1568 could bring us the self-reliance and self-sufficiency we will sorely need to survive as an island nation. HB 1568 offers us a chance to help our mahi'ai grow food for our people such that by January 1, 2050 we could actually be at 50% or more able to eat food that is planted, cultivated and harvested in amended soils that would continue to support local food production well into the future.

Mahalo Nui,

Marian Huff

Grow Some Good-Maui Farm to School Network

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:28:15 AM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee members,

My name is Hunter Heavilin and I am a food and agricultural planning consultant working across the state. My firm focuses on data in the agro-food system as a means to support everything from planning to policy. I am testifying to aid further defining state efforts toward local procurement and in **support of the intent of HB1568**. The benchmarks established in Acts 175 and 176 (2021) are important mechanisms to increase local purchasing, thereby stimulating agricultural output and progressing towards the statewide goals in the Aloha+ Challenge and the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative.

The [Annual Report on Purchases of Fresh Local Agricultural Products and Local Value-Added, Processed, Agricultural or Food Products by the State Pursuant to Act 176, SLH 2021](#) found 11 of 18 departments reported ‘having no purchases of produce or local agricultural products as listed in Act 176’, though they ‘may have purchased food in the form of prepared meals from third-party vendors’.

To ensure meaningful reporting of departments covered by the statute, and for that reporting to provide market signals to the agricultural industry, **I ask that this bill require departments and UH reporting on the following:**

- Status of the department's progress in meeting the local percentage procurement goal
- Total spending on consumable foods
- Total spending on produce (as defined in the current statute)
- Total local purchase spending
- For departments that do direct purchasing and food preparation, total purchases and total local purchases by produce category, (as demonstrated by the exemplary and clear reporting by the Department of Public Safety). Namely:
  - Fruits & Vegetables
  - Coffee
  - Staple Starches
  - Eggs
  - Poultry & Poultry Products
  - Livestock (Beef)
  - Livestock (Pork)
  - Milk & Milk Products

- Aquacultural and maricultural products
- For departments that only purchased food in the form of prepared meals from third-party vendors, an estimate use/purchase of local produce/products (as demonstrated in the reporting of the Department of Defense)
- If the department or UH did not meet the relevant benchmark, an explanation of why

Your consideration of these metrics and mechanisms to expand local procurement is very much appreciated.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Hunter Heavilin



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

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

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1568  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

by  
Max N. Otani, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Government Reform  
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309; Via Videoconference)

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) opposes House Bill (HB) 1568, 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 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.

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.

HB 1568 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**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:27:22 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Interestingly, I am or have been in positions to support an increase in local food purchasing in all four of the state departments covered in this legislation. As a retired public educator, former surrogate/advocate for incarcerated youth, current Assistant Athletic Director, advisor to Future Farmer of America teachers and a UH Manoa athletic booster club president, I see the benefits of purchasing and providing fresh, nutritious local produce and value-added products to children and student-athletes ages P through 20. I am in strong support of this bill.