



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

Date: 02/15/2022
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 Via Videoconference
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1864, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

Department: Education

Testifier: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1864, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1864, HD1. The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's supplemental budget request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all

students.

The funding for maintenance and upgrades of school kitchens and cafeteria staff training in the areas of scratch cooking, recipe development and standardization, just-in-time food preparation, waste management, and record keeping will be highly beneficial for the 194 production kitchens and 62 serving kitchens in the Department.

The Department seeks to clarify with the Department of Budget and Finance what equipment, if any, can be purchased using general obligation bond funds. Our understanding is that some general funds may be needed for the assessment of school kitchens and to purchase equipment.

The additional funding will support the farm-to-school program and assist the Department with fulfilling the goals of Acts 175 and 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:48:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER

CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 15, 2022
2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 309 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1864 HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Chairpersons Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1864 HD1. The bill appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the Department of Education's (DOE) school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods. The Department of Agriculture works with the DOE on Farm-to-State initiatives. This measure will strengthen the Farm-to-State initiatives and benefit local agriculture. The Department supports this measure and defers to DOE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1864, H.D. 1

February 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1864, H.D. 1.

H.B. No. 1864, H.D. 1, appropriates \$29,000,000 in general obligation bond funds in FY 23 for school cafeteria upgrades and \$4,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 for cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the Department of Education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally-grown foods.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1864 HD 1, Relating to School Food Programs

Dear Chair Woodson 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 1864 HD 1, which appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the Department of Education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

Ulupono supports the DOE's efforts to move the Hawai'i Farm-to-School Program's local food procurement forward with impactful resource dedication. We are supportive of increasing staff training for scratch cooking and local food purchasing as mentioned by the DOE's Act 175, SLH 2021 Report to the Legislature. In that same report, the DOE mentions the lack of a centralized data system and internal controls. Ulupono believes that it is of extreme importance that the DOE prioritize this centralized data system to better understand how funds are currently spent and improve internal decisions around increasing local food purchases for schools statewide. This system has the ability to support DOE's future strategy to incrementally increase local sourcing for school meals. We ask this committee to consider adding an appropriation for the DOE's centralized data system as mentioned in their Act 175, SLH 2021 report and set a deadline to implement such a system.

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 EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1864, HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 1864, HD1, which appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. Many efforts such as the Farm to School Program, Farm to State, and the Aina Pono Program have been created to transition the State's food systems toward locally grown food. HFB believes that upgrading school facilities and training staff to align with this effort is critical to the success of these programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



House Committee on Education

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1864 HD1

Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

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

HAPA strongly supports HB1864 HD1, which will help schools and communities fulfill the mission to increase serving of locally sourced foods while improving health education, nutrition and understanding the value of local food security.

HB1864 HD1 appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

By focusing on local relationships that “regionalize the menu,” children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from.

The transition to more and more locally grown fresh foods in our schools provides many benefits including strengthening our local food system, while supporting our local farmers and food producers, as well as our economy.

In turn we also benefit our environment through reducing carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

HB1864 HD1 also saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs.

Most importantly, HB1864 HD1 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB1864 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:43:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Gibson	Hookakoo Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

Ho‘okāko‘o Corporation supports HB1864 and urges the committee to ensure public conversion charter schools are included in this legislation. Public conversion charter schools occupy Department of Education facilities and serve as district public schools for their communities.



Date: February 14, 2022
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 HB1864 HD1, Relating to School Food Programs
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 HB1864 HD1**, which appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the Department of Education's (HIDOE) school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

School cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training have long been recognized as critical action points for successfully and equitably advancing farm to school efforts across HIDOE. The ['Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Report](#) on the piloting of farm to school meals that occurred in Kohala and Mililani between August 2016 through July 2018 states: "Currently, School Food Services Branch training for school cafeteria workers is not sufficient, and training needs will increase with a scratch cooking program." The report recommends **creating a "strategic year-round training program"** to include measuring overproduction, working as a team, proficiency with knife skills, and other areas as shown on page 67.

From April through June 2020, all public school kitchens on the island of Kaua'i were assessed for the purposes of preparing for farm to school meal implementation there. HB1864 HD1 fulfills the initial next step recommended within the [Farm to State: Island of Kaua'i Report](#), which is to **"secure funding for equipment for kitchens and upgrades"** (page 86). Importantly, both reports also recommend there be **one supervisor present full time within each district** and visiting schools regularly to provide ongoing training and support (pages 67 and 80, respectively).

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 school, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing HB1864 HD1.

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



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony In Support of HB 1864 Relating to School Food Programs

House Committee on Education

February 14, 2022

Testimony of Dana Shapiro
General Manager
Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative supports HB 1864 Relating to School Food Programs. We formed the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative in 2016 to build a network of small-scale, diversified farms that grow breadfruit and want to improve community access to this amazing, nutritious food. From 2018 to 2020 we were a primary local supplier for the DOE's 'Aina Pono program, providing minimally processed sweet potatoes, bananas, green papayas, and 'ulu – which transitioned to not only a Harvest of the Month menu item but also a regular part of the school lunch cycle in school year 2019-2020. We firmly believe in serving fresh, locally grown foods in our schools and this bill will make the Act 175 goal of 30% local food in schools by 2030 possible by supporting necessary upgrades and training in cafeterias.

We are living proof not only that farm to school / farm to institution is possible in Hawai'i, but of its huge potential benefit for both local farmers and children. To this day one of the strongest memories I have is standing in a supermarket giving out samples of 'ulu when a little boy excitedly ran up and told his mother how much he knows about and loves 'ulu because he ate at in school. At the same time the partnership between our co-op and DOE had a meaningful impact on the 100 small-scale, diversified, family farmers of the co-op - located on both Hawaii island and Maui - by enabling us to expand the number of crops we purchase from farmers and to grow our overall volumes from 20,000 pounds in 2017 to 40,000 pounds in 2018 and nearly 200,000 pounds by 2020. About half of our volume was going to local schools at the pinnacle of this relationship.

This month, we surpassed over 800,000 lbs of produce purchased from local farmers since our inception and we hope to continue to supply this nutritious food to local schools which are equipped with the tools and training to prepare fresh, locally grown foods for students' plates.



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | eatbreadfruit.com | info@eatbreadfruit.com

Thank you for your dedication to local food, students and farmers, please support this bill.
Sincerely,



General Manager



HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:23:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

In order for DOE School Food Services Branch to implement Act 175, there needs to be updates in their IT systems, professional development for Cafeteria Staff, and fixing broken equipment. This funding will enable SFSB to move forward with their Farm to School Program. Mahalo

Committees on Education and Housing
The Hawaii State House of Representatives
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 1864 HD1 Testimony

February 11, 2022

Dear Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and esteemed members of the House Committees on Education and Housing,

I SUPPORT WITH BILL [HB1864 HD1](#), which seeks to appropriate funds for kitchen renovation and cafeteria staff training to further the Department of Education's (DOE) school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

My name is Erika Molyneux, and I am a resident of Kaneohe and a mother of an elementary student at Kapunahala Elementary School. As someone interested in my own children's health and education as well as the state's fiscal responsibility in stewarding taxpayer money, I see only benefits in investing in our local agriculture and bringing our students fresh meals created from local produce, meats, fish, and dairy. Furthermore, I am impressed that this plan is likely to both improve nutrition and save money for the state in the long run.

For all these reasons, I strongly support PASSING BILL [HB1864 HD1](#) and to benefit our state's local workers, trek toward self-sustainability and better nutrition, and financial responsibility. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika Molyneux', written in a cursive style.

Erika Molyneux

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 2:29:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

Mahalo for considering this action and I hope with strong encouragement that you pass this and provide our schools, keiki and staff the best opportunities to thrive.

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 7:22:18 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of HB1864.

The needs of the ‘Āina Pono project report need to be met. This bill helps to appropriate funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the Department of Education's school food programs to serve students freshk locally grown foods.

Support HB1864!

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 9:52:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lydia Trinidad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha -- We are in support of bill HB 1864.

Kualapuu Conversion Charter School is a PreK-6 Elementary School on the island of Molokai. We have 350 students, and is the largest elementary school on Molokai.

We also would like to upgrade our kitchen facilities so we can offer high quality, fresh prepared foods made with local products. We would also like to eliminate the use of single use plastics utensils and paper plates/trays that fill up our landfill. Although upgrading our school cafeteria is a sizeable investment up-front, this will help increase our local economy, is environmentally sustainable, and will help Hawaii become less reliant on bringing food from the outside. Let's start eating local, and upgrading our school cafeterias is a major first step.

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 11:50:01 AM

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

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

Comments:

Strongly support this legislation that facilitates the paradigm shift from feeding our keiki, faculty and school staffs from frozen commodities to the scratch cooking of fresh, nutritious and safe local produce and vale-added products.

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:08:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1864 HD1, which appropriates funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

Serving fresh, local food in our school cafeterias is a win:win for the health of our keiki and the climate!

Please pass this measure!

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:38:57 PM

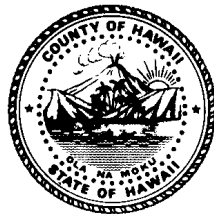
Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports this Bill. Mahalo nui!

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 14, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1864 HD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS
Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

We support HB1864 HD1 which improves the ability of school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods by appropriating funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria training. School food programs play a critical role in improving health, locally grown food benefits students, small businesses, local farmers, and the environment.

The pilot projects (2016-2018) were overwhelmingly successful. With two months of training, Kohala school complex kitchen staff went from serving processed food to one hundred per cent scratch-cooked food. The efforts of the cafeteria team led to fresh food purchases that increased from a baseline of twenty-seven per cent to ninety-two per cent. This increase coincided with more than \$30,000 in savings and increased student participation in school food programs. Similarly, the 'Āina Pono project at Mililani high school resulted in a savings of \$106,658 over the course of one semester while increasing local and fresh food purchases, student participation, and staff morale.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council