



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

Date: 02/28/2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

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:

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 and schools.

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.

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 FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1864, H.D. 1

February 28, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 308 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.

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 FINANCE

FEBRUARY 28, 2022
11:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1864 HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

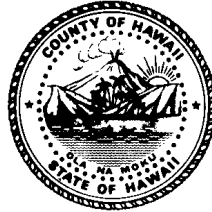
Chairpersons Luke and Members of the Committee:

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.



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 28, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1864 HD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS
Committee on Finance
Monday, February 28, 2022 at 11:00am

Aloha Chair Luke 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 Finance 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



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

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1844, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 HB 1844, HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to establish one full-time agriculture education coordinator position.

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawai'i is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators, and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011 to address Ag Labor. The Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report was the result of the stakeholder meetings. The report made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes was "Increasing youth education and training".

In 2013, the Hawai'i State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convenes, in part, to execute the recommendations of the Hawai'i Agriculture Skill Panel Report. This board established a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This was an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawai'i.

In 2015, Hawai'i State Senate Resolution No. 80 requested that the UH-Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) develop an "implementation strategy and recommendations for the creation of a statewide coordinated framework of support for P-20 agriculture education, including any proposed legislation." SR 80 sought to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

HFB supports initiatives that help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agriculture education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai'i's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai'i's food security. We still have a long way to go to educate our children about agriculture. Creating an agriculture education coordinator position is another tool that will help in the education process. It is an investment to have well-informed consumers and supporters of Hawai'i's agricultural industry in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday, February 28, 2022 — 11:00 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Luke 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



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 26, 2022

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: Testimony in Support of **HB1864**, Appropriation for School Food Programs; Cafeteria Upgrades; Cafeteria Staff Training; DOE; and General Obligation Bonds.

I am writing on behalf of Hawai'i Food+ Policy to express our support for HB1864, Relating to School Food Programs. This measure authorizes the Director of Finance to appropriate funds for school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training, to improve the ability of the department of education's school food programs, and to serve students fresh, locally grown foods.

As one trained in Sustainable Community Food Systems, I would say that this measure is necessary to improve the nutritional quality of school lunches across the state. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of students from Grades K-12. Matingwina (2018) reveals the direct link between student health and good academic performance. Evidence from research shows that healthy schoolchildren experience less problems in school than students with poor health. In other words, "Students with good health tend to perform better in school than those with poor health."

Since Hawaii schools are required to procure 15% of their daily consumption of fruits and vegetables from local farmers (Hawaii Food Plus Policy, 2021), it is only appropriate to provide cafeteria staff with the proper training, in preparation and handling of such fresh fruits and vegetables, to satisfy the discriminating palate of schoolchildren. For cafeteria staff to succeed, they'll also need to be equipped with the right setup and equipment. Thus, a cafeteria upgrade is necessary.

We of the Food+ Policy Program strongly support this measure and urge that it be passed into law.

Mahalo,

Erwin & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

References Cited:

Hawaii Food Plus Policy. (2021, January 13). *Hawaii Appleseed/Food+ Policy Landscape*

Update 2021. [Video 1]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKmYzQfGilk>

Matingwina, T. (2018). Health, Academic Achievement and School-Based Interventions.

Chapter Metrics Overview. Retrieved from: <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/62994>



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HB1864 HD1
Relating to School Food Programs

Monday, February 28, 2022, 11:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, 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 HB1864 HD1** 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 fresh, locally grown foods. We recognize the increase in training needed to be able to serve fresh, local food as compared to frozen and processed foods. This investment in preparing cafeteria facilities and staff to handle local food is a worthy investment for the health of our students, success of the Farm to School programs, and for Hawaii's local farmers and ranchers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the purchasing of locally sourced food, and Hawaii's ranchers are ready to contribute to that by providing local beef, a nutritious protein. Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. This includes high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins. These nutrients are especially important for the development of young, active growing children.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





Date: February 27, 2022
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB1864 HD1, Relating to School Food Programs
Hearing: February 28, 2022 at 11:00am 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



House Committee on Finance

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

Monday, February 28th, 2022 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita 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: 2/26/2022 11:29:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

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: 2/27/2022 10:57:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support.

As a retired educator who has seen the food served to our keiki, it is past time to be more diligent and supportive with farm to school foods. This bill is supported to "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".

HB-1864-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 12:04:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

#fixourfoodsystem