

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 AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 2, 2022
10:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1864
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Chairpersons Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1864. 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.





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

Date: 02/02/2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 325 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 1864 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. 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.

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 AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1864

February 2, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

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

H.B. No. 1864 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 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.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:05:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maureen Datta	Adaptations Inc	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill. In order for school cafeteria staff to be able to prepare fresh, locally grown food, additional training will be necessary. Building skills of food preparers will reduce waste and expense. Imagine producing five gallons of salad dressing at once with simple, wholesome ingredients, bottling it into usable portions and improving consumer's taste experience while eliminating purchase of prepared dressings with unnecessary, inferior ingredients. Imagine creating culturally appropriate flavors to highlight Hawaii-grown fresh produce. Enabling cafeteria staff to make delicious, enticing food will reduce waste and contribute to a more robust budget available for locally grown food. Think housemade pizza dough, sauces, empanadas, salads, etc. This will be a game changer for students and those who feed them. Resources are needed to lift up our food preparers and provide them the skills currently not in demand because they are simply reheating prepared foods which are coming from outside of our state. This bill will help transform Hawaii's cafeterias so that they may better provide fresh nutritious food to our keiki,

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 2:48:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started fully supports HB 1864. This has several elements that will support Hawaii to Build Back Better.

1. Capacity building and training of staff to increase their skills; and
2. Improve school cafeterias and kitchens.

This bill also supports our students' in improving their health.

It would be important to have the HODOE Farm to School Coordinator hired and be part of this effort.

Mahalo nui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, Executive Director.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 1864, Relating to School Food Programs

Dear Chair Hashem 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, 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



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 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1864
RELATING TO SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, 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, 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.



COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

HB1864
Relating to School Food Programs

Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022, 10:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, 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** 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



HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:03:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Grow Some Good supports this bill to ensure that DOE food service workers have the necessary tools to effectively increase local food procurement across the entire institution.



Date: February 1, 2022
To: Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture
From: Lydi Bernal, Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator
Re: SUPPORT for HB1864, Relating to School Food Programs
Hearing: February 2, 2022 at 10:00am Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1864**, 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.

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 the Hawai'i Department of Education. The ['Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Report](#) on the piloting that occurred 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 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.

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school!

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



House Committee on Agriculture

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

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 10:00 am, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

Please support HB1864. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony In Support of HB 1864 Relating to School Food Programs

Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee

February 2, 2022

Testimony of Dana Shapiro

General Manager

Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative

Dear Chairman Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso 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.

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



Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative

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

Sincerely,



General Manager



HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:29:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please make this needed investment in our schools for the health of our kids. #fixourfoodsystem.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 6:17:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our keiki deserve fresh, local food to be served in our school cafeterias. Please support!

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:35:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne C Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When my girls were young, I led a girl scout troop. We enlisted a young ag student from UHH to teach my girls how to make raised bed gardens and grow their own food. Sam worked with the schools in Waimea and Honokaa at that time. I remember hearing that the food they grew was not allowed to be used in the school's kitchens. Anyhow, the work with Sam, got my girls to try all kinds of vegetables that they never would have touched before. They grew the arugula, so they ate it and they liked it. They grew the kale, so they ate it, and sort of liked it. There was a pride that they felt eating the food they grew. Let the kids take pride in the fact that their efforts produced healthy food for themselves and their friends.

I support upgrading kitchens associated with the farm to table programs in the schools. Show these kids that food comes from farms not freezers.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:39:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Borman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will be beneficial to the schools. I am in full support of HB 1864/

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:38:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharlene Gee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In order for school cafeteria staff to be able to prepare fresh, locally grown food, additional training will be necessary. Building skills of food preparers will reduce waste and expense. Resources are needed to provide our food preparers the skills currently not in demand because they are simply reheating prepared foods which are coming from outside of our state. This bill will help transform Hawaii's cafeterias so that they may better provide fresh nutritious food to our keiki.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 4:02:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bronson Azama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is long overdue. As a public school graduate, I can say from experience the need to provide facilities and train staff to provide healthy local foods. We must also change standards to what portions students receive K-12, 5 chicken nuggets as an elementary student is not gonna feed a high schooler, yet this is my experience in High School. Healthy food, at better portion standards, is highly encouraged.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:05:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicia Starsong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In order for school cafeteria staff to be able to prepare fresh, locally grown food, additional training will be necessary. Building skills of food preparers will reduce waste and expense. Imagine producing five gallons of salad dressing at once with simple, wholesome ingredients, bottling it into usable portions and improving consumer's taste experience while eliminating purchase of prepared dressings with unnecessary, inferior ingredients. Imagine creating culturally appropriate flavors to highlight Hawaii-grown fresh produce. Enabling cafeteria staff to make delicious, enticing food will reduce waste and contribute to a more robust budget available for locally grown food. Think house-made pizza dough, sauces, empanadas, salads, etc. This will be a game changer for students and those who feed them. Resources are needed to lift up our food preparers and provide them the skills currently not in demand because they are simply reheating prepared foods which are coming from outside of our state. This bill will help transform Hawaii's cafeterias so that they may better provide fresh nutritious food to our keiki.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:28:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eva Wilder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Absolutely yes! our future and the future of our children and islands depend on it

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:55:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill so our keiki can eat healthy and ono food that they will actually enjoy for lunch.

We need to renovate and upgrade our 193 DOE campus "production kitchens" so that we can actually cook fresh food sourced from local farms and make sure the community heroes who work in our cafeterias have the training they need for great homemade style cooking.

Mahalo,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:38:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Malia Hayes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support school cafeteria upgrades and cafeteria staff training! Good nutrition is important to everyone's health and well-being and absolutely critical to the growth of healthy children's minds and bodies. But cafeterias and staff are currently lacking support to feed children fresh, locally-grown, and unprocessed foods. Therefore, we need upgrades to cafeterias and support to staff to increase capacity to feed children food made from scratch. If we want our keiki to thrive, then we must not feed them 40 grams of sugar during lunch. (Yes, I added up nutrition labels on some "pandemic-pick-up" school lunches; I was simultaneously grateful and shocked.) The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting sugar to 25 g per DAY, but the USDA food program supplies highly processed foods containing excessive amounts of sugar and not enough fiber. Let's support our awesome cafeteria staff, who want to feed all our children healthy foods, in procuring local foods and providing for the extra preparation time. After you pass this bill, I hope to one day read a study on the results of this sweeping change to children's nutrition in Hawai'i. I'd hypothesize: higher test scores, lower behavioral issues, lower rates of metabolic diseases, happier families, and a brighter future for us all. Thank you for your time and attention on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Malia Hayes

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:00:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill! Mahalo!

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:03:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Shields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem I support upgrading our schools cafeterias!!

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:22:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and **#fixourfoodsystem.**

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:42:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

My name is Tierra Bartolotti, I am currently a Senior Student in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu. I am also a 2015 alumni of Maui High School. During my years in Hawai'i public school, like many others, I was reliant on reduced school lunches & breakfast. Providing students with nutrient dense, locally sourced food is essential in supporting the learning, development, & focus of Hawai'i's youth. Eating unhealthy is linked to a 66% increased risk of loss of productivity. Appropriating funds for school food programs to serve students fresh, locally grown foods, is also essential in supporting our local farmers through institutional purchasing. I stand in full support for bill HB 1864.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:13:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rivah Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, which will help to empower Hawaii's food systems.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:32:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1864

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:24:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Symonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our keiki need and deserve healthy nutritious food. It is a win-win to support local agriculture to provide it! **#fixourfoodsystem**

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:24:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katie Folio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have a daughter in elementary school and another who will be soon. I fully support this bill to help create healthier, more locally sourced meals for our keiki in school! Please help fix our food system and improve the health of our kids to help bring down our rates of childhood obesity and the long-term associated health consequences.

Mahalo nui loa,

Katie Folio

Kula, Maui, HI

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:30:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As more and more Hawaii residents get pushed into poverty and as we are reliant on imported foods that are increasing in costs due to inflation and the increasing cost of energy, it will be critically important for creating the infrastructure and education to shift towards locally grown food. I support this bill as a mechanism for reducing our reliance on imports and facilitating our local economy through education on the importance of locally grown food.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 4:42:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Havilah Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why are we serving processed, pre-packaged, frozen foods that have been shipped across the world when we have the ability right here, within the state of Hawaii, to serve our children meals made from fresh fruits and vegetables? Local farmers win when we pay them a fair price for their produce, cafeteria staff win when they are equipped with more skills and training and a greater sense of connection to the food they are preparing and serving, keiki win when we source healthy, nutrient-dense local food to serve them, and the community wins when health-related issues due to poor diet are curbed by providing healthier options and changing the behaviors of children, encouraging them to eat fresh, local foods over packaged and processed. On the path to becoming food secure and healthy, we must support our local farmers, empower our own school cafeteria employees, and give children the best options available to them for their overall health and well being. Please support!

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:11:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Wow! This bill is a win - win - win for student - farmers - aina! The text of the pilot described in the bill says it all and worth repeating here -

"Furthermore, training for cafeteria managers and staff is required in the areas of scratch cooking, recipe development and standardization, just-in-time food preparation, waste management, and recordkeeping. The 'Āina Pono pilot projects at the Kohala school complex and Mililani high school demonstrate the importance of adequate training. 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 increasing 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."

We eat fresh local food at our house from Foodland, Aloha Fresh and Farmlink and my granddaughter loves it.

This bill is an investment in Hawaii's sustainable future and the health of our children.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:56:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and AGR Committee Members,

I support this bill for our schools, keiki, farmers, and ‘āina. In conjunction with bills supporting food hubs, healthy soils, and sustainable agriculture, HB1864 can advance public, ecological, and even economic health.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos

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Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:47:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lauren bell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#fixourfoodsystem

Fresh and local food is important for local and global health. Students will benefit from local and fresh produce and will gain knowledge and habits in a healthy/sustainable diet. This is beneficial for mental and physical health of our community.

training staff will help to promote this change in a positive manner.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:14:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:18:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Bence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I support HB1864 for schools to be able to have fresh local food mahalo

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:20:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Merideth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

What ends up on children's plate and their relationship to their food shapes their eating habits and overall well-being. Supporting Locally grown food not only helps our local economy but also the health of our planet by not outsourcing most of our food. In such unprecedented pandemic times Hawaii must have stronger food security. #fixourfoodsystem

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Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:52:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 1864

As a School Garden Coordinator, I have been involved in what is now a statewide school garden movement since 2008 and have had the opportunity to speak with a number of Food Service Managers in many of our DOE schools. This involvement has included an opportunity to do some interviewing with our principals and FSM's in the schools. As a result, I have developed the greatest respect for the people who handle this aspect of the life of our children, teachers, support staff, and principals in our DOE schools. Hawaii has the 12th largest school system in the nation with huge shipping costs, numerous protocols, and a "clientele" that comes from many different ethnic backgrounds and food preferences and, in many cases, health issues that require special diets.

In addition, many people do not realize that when a cafeteria staff member is absent, there are very few "substitute cafeteria workers who can take their place" due to the special tasks that require training and understanding of the numerous health protocols and purchasing procedures. This means doubling up tasks for the other staff members. Frankly, these people are candidates for sainthood!

HB 1864 is a bill that MUST pass through this year's legislature, especially now with the emphasis on growing more of our own food. Upgraded equipment, expanded facilities, and additional hiring and training is a must. The Hawaii Farm to School Hui has been working on some protocols for improving the efficiency of and increasing scratch cooking in our school cafeterias. These kinds of changes can be made efficiently. Feeding our children healthy food is a goal we all share.

Mahalo Nui,

Marian Huff

Grow Some Good-Maui Farm to School Network

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:13:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Whaley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tierra Bartolotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

I stand in support for HB 1844. However, I feel it is important to note that a lot of the research work done at UH Manoa is really focused on powering an agricultural research sector, rather than a research sector on Hawaiian agriculture. Although CTAHR engages in a lot of high level research and collaborations which is often times foundational science — the practicality and the implementation of that research for Hawai'i is often times lacking. Therefore I am recommending that the CTAHR agricultural coordinator position be tasked with addressing how the University can get more into the application, needs, and problems of Hawai'i's local food system barriers — rather than just theoretical foundational science questions. Equipping, educating, and preparing the next generation of Hawai'i's farmers is an integral part of building local resiliency within our local food system.

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Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:03:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1864 because investing in our cafeterias and cafeteria staff is essential for the health of our keiki and the health of our communities. Investing in school cafeterias is a direct investment in our future!

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Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:36:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a long time educator in Hawaii's schools I can attest to very poor quality food being served. This Bill will strongly support the opportunity for school cafeterias to offer fresher food from trained personnel.

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Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:07:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

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.

We need 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 fresh, locally grown foods.

I wish they had done this when I was in school we need to support more sustainable agriculture into our school systems and teach our students about it. Support HB1864.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:02:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill that would 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. There are so many benefits that will come if this bill is passed, including it being a win for our farmers, a win for our keiki, and a win for the climate! Please pass this very important measure. Mahalo!

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:05:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ariana Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In order for school cafeteria staff to be able to prepare fresh, locally grown food, additional training will be necessary. Building skills of food preparers will reduce waste and expense. Imagine producing five gallons of salad dressing at once with simple, wholesome ingredients, bottling it into usable portions and improving consumer's taste experience while eliminating purchase of prepared dressings with unnecessary, inferior ingredients. Imagine creating culturally appropriate flavors to highlight Hawaii-grown fresh produce. Enabling cafeteria staff to make delicious, enticing food will reduce waste and contribute to a more robust budget available for locally grown food. Think house-made pizza dough, sauces, empanadas, salads, etc. This will be a game changer for students and those who feed them. Resources are needed to lift up our food preparers and provide them the skills currently not in demand because they are simply reheating prepared foods which are coming from outside of our state. This bill will help transform Hawaii's cafeterias so that they may better provide fresh nutritious food to our keiki

Mahalo,

Ariana Datta

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:26:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sage Loomis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In order for school cafeteria staff to be able to prepare fresh, locally grown food, additional training will be necessary. Cafeterias are currently out of date to manage preparing so much scratch made food, and additional training is necessary for cafeteria staff for buy in. Imagine creating culturally appropriate flavors to highlight Hawaii-grown fresh produce. Enabling cafeteria staff to make delicious, enticing food will reduce waste and contribute to a more robust budget available for locally grown food. This will have effects throughout Hawaii's entire food system. Increased funds will go a huge way towards ensuring every student has access to fresh, local, delicious food every day for school lunch.

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Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:33:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
joann sarubbi md	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE HEALTH OF OUR HAWAII NATION THAT CHILDREN LEARN AT A YOUNG AGE HOW TO MAINTAIN PROPER NUTRITION, LEARN HOW TO USE THE PRODUCTS MADE FROM OUR ISLANDS AND SUPPORT OUR AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES

HB-1864

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:33:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/2/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fiona Fong Weingartner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1864 to update our school food programs and empower cafeterias to draw more on local resourcecs. I envision the farming families who work at the Honoka'a cafeteria here able to bring their own kalo, uala, ulu, squash, or leafy vegetables to our keiki. This is one step in that vision. Mahalo - Fiona at Honoka'a Elementary