

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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. 2304, H.D. 1

February 23, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2304, H.D. 1.

H.B. No. 2304, H.D. 1, appropriates an undetermined sum of general funds for FY 23 to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i Farm to School program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. The measure also requires DOE to submit a report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2023, that details a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawai'i Farm to School program.

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 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 23, 2022

2:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2304 HD1
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2304 HD1. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii Farm to School Program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. The bill additionally requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature detailing a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawaii Farm to School Program. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and defers to the 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: 02/23/2022

Time: 02:30 PM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2304, HD1 RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. Requires the DOE to submit a report to the legislature no later than 1/1/2023 that details a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawaii farm to school program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

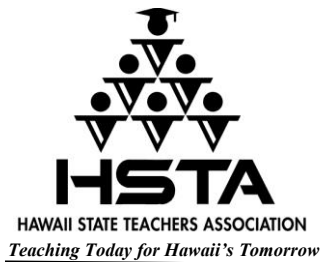
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 2304, HD1.

The Department continues to work towards meeting the provisions of Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 ("Act 175"). The implementation of a centralized tracking system will assist the School Food Services Branch (SFSB) with fulfilling the reporting requirements of the act. It will also provide the SFSB the ability to more efficiently and effectively track purchases made by the schools; currently, this data sits at the school level. An estimated \$1,600,000 is needed to procure the centralized tracking system. Along with the procurement of this system, the funds would be utilized to provide training to the school food service staff. System training may include, but is not limited to, modules pertaining to menu planning, inventory management, and record-keeping and will assist with providing technical support to all users. An estimated \$350,000 is necessary to maintain the system annually. The need to train school food service staff on the use of the centralized data system and for the preparation and procurement of food provisions will be vital to the success of meeting the goals set forth in Act 175.

In addition to training provided on the system's modules, the Department recognizes that the training of the school food service staff for preparation and procurement is also necessary. The use of consultant services for training, may also include culinary math and various culinary skills, with an emphasis on scratch-cooking, and standardized recipe implementation.

In addition, the Department will provide a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawaii farm-to-school program to meet Act 175.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2304, HD1 - RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2304, HD1**, relating to the farm to school program. This bill appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Hawaii farm to school program was created in 2015 to improve the health of 3 Hawaii's children by encouraging consumption of fresh, locally grown foods for nutritional content and to promote healthy behaviors at an early age. We need to support the production and use of local agricultural products in our local schools. To support the Hawaii farm to school program, Act 175, 10 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 175), was enacted, which moved the program from the department of agriculture to the department of education and established a programmatic goal that at least thirty per cent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030. Following the enactment of Act 175, the department of education began taking the steps necessary to achieve the Act's programmatic goal. However, in the department of education's recent Annual Report on Farm to School Meals, the department noted that additional resources and funding are needed to carry out the Hawaii farm to school program and accomplish Act 175's programmatic goal. The department's report specifically states that there is no funding available for internal systems and controls which are much needed.

Because a robust education involves developing all aspects of learning for our ever-changing world including the changes in agriculture, and how vital it is to sustainability, and we need to practice what we preach about growing local, buying local, and promoting local sustainability, thus the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 — 2:30 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2304 HD 1, Relating to the Farm to School Program.

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 2304 HD 1, which appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i Farm-to-School Program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. This bill also requires the DOE to submit a report to the legislature no later than 1/1/2023 that details a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawai'i Farm-to-School Program.

Ulupono supports the DOE's efforts to move the Hawai'i Farm-to-School Program's local food procurement forward with impactful resource dedication. This bill seeks to address the general roadblocks of internal systems and controls as stated in the DOE's Act 175, SLH 2021, Report to the Legislature. In order to move the needle on local food sourcing, internal systems, such as a centralized food data system, and controls, such as cafeteria training, are vital for the State in its effort to meet farm-to-school goals.

We support the DOE providing a Farm-to-School plan and timeline as listed in this measure. This may help the Legislature and the public hold the DOE accountable to certain deadlines on projects and efforts that have been mentioned in various legislative hearings.

Ulupono believes that it is of extreme importance that the DOE prioritize a 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.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

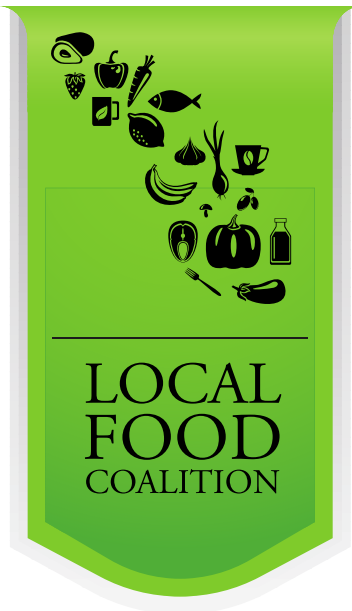


It is our understanding that there have been multiple efforts to establish a food data system within the DOE. Yet, per the DOE's recent legislative report, it has not been able to successfully implement a centralized data system to capture important metrics for school meals. As such, we ask this committee to establish a deadline for the DOE to implement the food data system such as 1 year from the passage of this Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 23, 2022 – 2:30 p.m. – Via Videoconference

RE: HB 2304 HD1 – Relating to the Farm to School Program – In Support

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committees:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** HB 2304 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals; and requires the DOE to submit a report to the legislature no later than 1/1/2023 that details a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawaii farm to school program.

Act 175 (SLH 2021) moved the farm to school program from the Department of Agriculture to the DOE to increase efficiency of the Hawaii Farm to School Program to provide students with healthier food choices and support local agriculture. Providing additional resources and requiring the DOE to submit a timeline and plan to the Legislature on how they will meet the goal that at least 30% of food in public schools will be locally sourced by 2030 under Act 155 (SLH 2021) will help support the local agriculture industry and achieve the goal to increase local food production.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2304 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi
808-544-8345
kmatsuyoshi@wik.com



Food+ Policy Internship 2022

food@purplemaia.org

February 21 2022

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke
Speaker, House of Representatives

Subject: HB 2304 HD 1, Support

Aloha,

A commitment to have locally sourced food for our public school's cafeterias is an important means to maintain a strong and healthy diet for our younger population. The Hawai'i Farm to School Program's goal of 30% of school children's food is locally sourced is a vital step in serving nutritious meals and healthy behaviors to our children and to supporting our small local farmers. However, there also need to support internal monitoring and control to establish a more coherent approach and improve quality control that goals and needs are being met.

Currently, there is no funding for these necessary internal monitoring and management to support this large undertaking. This is a "no brainer" to have robust monitoring and assessment to the Farm to School Program.

Food + Policy strongly supports the overall Hawai'i Farm to School Program's 30% goal of locally sourced food in our children. A sound system of moving forward is an essential management and planning tool that has for too long been an oversight. HB 2304 will provide the need for implementing training and internal management and planning infrastructure to the Farm to Food Program. Please consider filling the gap between idea and concrete implementation that supports healthy and nutritious locally sourced food for our youth.

Mahalo,

Jeff Yamauchi & the Food+ Interns (#fixourfoodsystem)

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

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



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 2304, HD1
RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

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 2304, HD1, which appropriates funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

HFB supported moving the Farm to School Program to the DOE. We are strong proponents of the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in our schools. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

HFB supports programs and initiatives such as Farm to School because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through Farm to School 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. Farm to School 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. We believe that adequately funding the DOE is critical for the success of Hawai'i's Farm to School Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Date: February 22, 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 HB2304 HD1, Relating to the Farm to School Program

Hearing: February 23, 2022 at 2:30pm Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2304 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawai'i Farm to School Program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

This bill addresses the needs identified in the [HIDOE "Farm to School Meals" Report to the 2022 Legislature](#) on [Act 175 \(SLH 2021\)](#). Allocation of funding for a centralized food data system and cafeteria staff training also aligns with the goals and priorities activities identified via the ['Aina Pono farm to school meals pilot](#) conducted by HIDOE from 2016-2020.

Ultimately the success of the Hawai'i Farm to School Program will depend on the program being **adequately resourced and staffed**, including – at a minimum – hiring of two Farm to School Coordinators within the HIDOE School Food Services Branch, and a School Garden Coordinator within the HIDOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (see [HB2013](#) and [SB2182](#)). The program will also require **proper planning** that is informed by and continually inclusive of community input and participation.

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 its support by passing this bill.

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



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Chair*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Vice Chair*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
John Schliff, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*
Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 23, 2022
TIME: 2:30pm
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: HB2304 HD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to appropriate funds to the DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

Increasing the use of locally grown food in our schools has a range of benefits. Making sure that Hawaii's school kids to have access to fresh, healthy, Hawaii grown fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry, and meat is good for kids. Providing a stable, consistent, large scale buyer is good for our local farmers and helps stabilize and strengthen our local agricultural industry. This measure is a win win. We encourage you to pass it and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Comments for H.B. 2304 – Relating to the Farm to School Program
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 2:30PM via Videoconference

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** for **H.B. 2304**, which would appropriate funds to the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) to implement systems and controls in order to help implement Hawai‘i’s farm to school program.

The 2021 Hawai‘i legislature passed H.B. 767 S.D. 1, which establishes a farm to school program in HIDOE, and requires 30 percent local food purchases by 2030. In response to this legislation, the HIDOE recently submitted its first annual report on farm to school meals to the legislature,¹ which listed “building internal systems and controls” as a critical unfunded need in order to operationalize the farm to school program.

House Bill 2304 attempts to address this unfunded need by appropriating funds for 1) a centralized food data system; 2) training for cafeteria staff for preparation and procurement; and 3) consultants to effectuate plans of the program in all department schools.

We would like to bring the committees’ attention to some relevant background and context of prior attempts to operationalize systems and controls for HIDOE’s school food services program. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Western Regional Office provided HIDOE with on-site technical assistance to help increase efficiencies and reduce costs in their school food service operations. This included providing recommendations to streamline procurement practices and to transition to standardized recipes and cycle-based menu planning. The USDA sent a formal letter to HIDOE summarizing the technical assistance provided and encouraged implementation of some or all recommendations *in lieu of a reimbursement rate adjustment at that time*.

In reference to the first item listed above (“a centralized food data system”) from the bill under consideration, it is relevant to note that—in response to the USDA letter—HIDOE did purchase a school nutrition program software (called eTriton) that would facilitate tracking of local procurement and inventory. However, to the best of our knowledge, it has not been fully implemented, and we understand that a new system is currently being sought. It is unclear why it was felt eTriton did not meet the need. In addition, the other recommendations in the USDA letter were either not implemented or only partially implemented.

Success of the farm to school program depends on many factors, and the purchasing of such software is certainly one of them. If HIDOE would like to purchase a different software for this purpose, it would be prudent for the legislature to ensure that this legislation requires a timeline and plan not just for the purchase of said software, but also for its operationalization, which will include a plan for training and requiring all cafeteria managers and staff to use the program.

¹ https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/DOE_REPORT2022_FarmtoSchoolMeals.pdf

Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberation of H.B. 2304. Hawai'i Appleseed is in full support of the HDOE farm to school program, and we sincerely hope these comments will ensure any further investments in the program have the intended effect of achieving the state's farm to school goals.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:14:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	No

Comments:

We need to give the department the tools it needs to be successful in its procurement goals.



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

Testimony In Support of HB 2304 Relating to the Farm to School Program

House Committee on Finance

February 23rd, 2022

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

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative **supports** HB 2304 Relating to the Farm to School Program. 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 appropriating necessary funds to secure additional resources including a centralized food data system, training for staff on preparation and procurement and consultants to support all department schools.

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. We hope to continue to supply this nutritious food to the Department of Education, with the department equipped with funds and resources to implement fresh, locally grown foods in school cafeterias and on 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

Sincerely,



General Manager



HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:23:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Crawford	Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Farm to School programs are very beneficial for multiple reasons, including:

- providing our keiki with fresh, nutritious food which is crucial to healthy brain development and learning
- providing our farmers with steady markets that they can plan and plant for
- keeping our dollars in our local economy

There are challenges to making the Farm to School programs work, however, so it makes sense to support DOE to help implement the program and develop systems and controls to make sure the program is well-run.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:52:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drew Wilkinson	Growing Together Edible Landscaping	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

We fully support HB2304 and the further development of the Farm To School Program. This program is not only a keystone for providing healthy nutrition to students but it teaches them how to eat local healthy food for the rest of their lives. It will also incentivise farmers to grow more food as they will have a substantial school client base. Please support this bill and help get funding to establish the programs and organization needed to roll this out.

mahalo,

Drew Wilkinson



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2304, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2304, House Draft 1, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Department of Education (DOE) to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii Farm to School Program (Program). Specifically, this bill would provide that these funds be used to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals, and require the DOE to report no later than January 1, 2023, a plan and timeline for implementing the Program.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2050.

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

Testimony on House Bill No. 2304, House Draft 1
Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 2:30 p.m.
Page 2

The HPCA also asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our overreliance on tourism has weakened our ability to bounce back from COVID's dire economic realities. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to grow more food.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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



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

HB2304
Relating to the Farm to School Program

Wednesday, Feb 23, 2022, 2:30 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committees,

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 HB2304** to appropriate funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals.

This bill will provide additional necessary resources to help the DOE achieve the programmatic goal established under Act 175 (SLH 2021) that at least 30% of food in public schools will be locally sourced by 2030.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:33:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HB2304

The FIN Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i asks you to support HB2304 relating to help implement the Hawaii Farm to School program. Our Hawaiian youth need your support on this bill. Please support HB2304.

Mahalo,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Co-Chair GPH Susan Roberts Emery

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:20:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need young, intelligent, well trained farmers.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:24:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2304.

Sincerely, Deborah Umiamaka.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 12:14:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am writing in support of HB 2304 HD1 which will further implementation of farm to school programs. While legislation has been moving in this direction, the resources haven't made it down to school cafeterias yet. Staff are mostly still coordinating to feed students within the new space, time, and packaging constraints created by covid. Here in Honoka'a we often wonder what the cafeteria would need to procure local kalo and citrus, much of which is being grown by staff and parents. The caf staff know how to cook local, but I believe we would need more help with the procurement process and making the food prep fit into time constraints (caf serves all grades K-12 within 3 hours). I am writing as an outsider, the garden teacher, who hopes to one day grow food we can actually give to the cafeteria. Decades ago we had a robust hydroponic lettuce and kalo operation which was providing fresh food and career training. What would it take to get that back? Mahalo for your consideration - Fiona in Honoka'a

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 12:32:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacqueline Cobeen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HB 3204 HD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program

Date: 02/23/2022; Time: 2:30 PM; Location: Via Videoconference

Person Testifying: Jacqueline Cobeen, Individual testimony

Title of Bill: HB 3204 HD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, specifically to implement internal systems and controls to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. Requires the DOE to submit a report to the legislature no later than 1/1/2023 that details a plan and timeline for implementing the Hawaii farm to school program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita and the Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking time to listen to the people's voice, including mine in Support of HB 3204. My name is Jacqueline Cobeen but I go by my Hawaiian name Kaiao. I was born and raised here on Oahu. This bill would have great effects on many subjects, not only supporting a self-sustaining local economy but also including reducing pollution, addressing food insecurity, and even having health benefits for students.

I have volunteered at many local Hawaiian farms through the public school system and dedicated teachers. It is hard but extremely worthwhile work that greatly impacts all of us. Hawaii imports about 6 million pounds of food every day covering 85% of the food consumed here, shipping all of that food has its environmental effects through emissions of transportation to the packaging it takes to preserve food as long as it takes to ship it. Not to mention all the wasted energy on packaging and transportation for the food that goes bad on the journey over.

It is estimated that there is at any point no more than 10 days supply of fresh food in the state. As shipping became more reliable and accurate there was less of a need to store food in warehouses and we have become reliant on the idea of "just in time" shipping. This Idea has made us very susceptible not only to natural disasters as we have so little storage reserves on the island but also to shipping lines as if there was some sort of strike we would not be able to survive on our own. This is evidenced by what happens anytime there is a major hurricane or storm warning as people quickly rush to buy all the food, water, and supplies they can, leaving the stores barren. Usually they end up returning much of it as soon as the all clear sounds as they could not really afford it all; however, if it was a prolonged disaster this would raise serious concerns. This initial hoarding increases food security especially for those unable to get to the stores in time as well as for those who cannot afford the emergency supplies.

In 1778 at point of contact Hawaii had an estimated population of 1 million; this mirrors our current 1.3 million. Times have changed and we recognize that overly focused increasing of self sufficiency could be damaging as it could cause too much reliance on one source, be poorly managed, risk depletion of local resources, and increase consumer costs. The degree of self-sufficiency is not something that should be maximized. It should be optimized, taking a broad variety of considerations into account.

We have all seen the effects that COVID-19 closures had on the community and it has drastically shown that we are far too reliant on the tourism industry. I do think it is important to keep that as a part of the economy here as with our location we will always be a subject of tourism. However, I also believe that it is vital to supply food and aid to our people, as we have seen people lining up for hours just to get food. Replacing 10% of imports with local production would create 2,300 jobs according to a 2012 legislative report which could be promising. Supporting local farms will create jobs and provide more food not only to the keiki but to the people in need who buy surplus food from the farms that do not go to the school system.

I believe that this bill has the potential to improve health for students as well. Through Michelle Obama's initiative school lunches nationwide have gotten healthier and more balanced. A key to a healthier meal is fresh grown foods and when grown locally they will be much healthier. When I was in elementary school, I hated the school lunch, what was already shipped from out of state had been made in a different school before getting transported to mine. Looking back on the experience I feel the food was not fresh enough. Maybe more people would have eaten lunch if the food was freshly made and therefore provide the positive health benefits of a healthy meal as opposed to the bags of chips I saw my classmates eat throughout school. Since then my old public charter school has created a school garden and kitchen with fresh food and the students including my brother love the school lunches.

Of the 183,500 people the Hawaii Foodbank network serves: 79 percent of households have incomes below the federal poverty line, 79 percent of client households served are food insecure (meaning they do not always know where they will find their next meal), 43 percent of these client households are experiencing food insecurity with hunger (meaning they are sometimes completely without a source of food), and 83 percent of client households with children served are also food insecure. This bill would provide healthier food to the developing keiki who often aren't afforded that opportunity.

As you can see there are a wide variety of benefits from this bill, I am by no means an expert in any of these categories but everyday people see things and make a change. We are dedicated to making a difference in our community and appreciate your time in letting our voices be heard. If there are any questions, please contact me at kaiao.hawaii@gmail.com or (808)-351-8890.

Thank you so much for providing the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 3204 HD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Jacqueline Cobeen

Individual Affiliation

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:56:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Lush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help implement the Hawaii farm to school program, which will help our child be healthier and learn more about the food systems and it's importance for local food.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 1:06:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN members,

I strongly support HB2304 HD1 which provides funds to help the DOE implement the Hawaii Farm-to-School program, specifically to meet the State's local food goals in school meals. We have talked about this program for years, but so far little progress has been made.

Just the cultural and health aspects alone make this a program worth supporting: kids eating healthy, Hawaiian-grown foods is a win-win. On top of that, local farmers are benefiting from selling their produce to the schools. Let's make this happen--this year.

Please support the Farm-to-School bill this session.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:31:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge strong support for this bill.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:22:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports HB2304 HD1 as a way to ensure accountability and sustainable feeding of our students.

- This bill addresses the needs identified in the [HIDOE “Farm to School Meals” Report to the 2022 Legislature](#) on [Act 175 \(SLH 2021\)](#).
- Allocation of funding for a centralized food data system and cafeteria staff training also aligns with the goals and priorities activities identified via the [‘Aina Pono farm to school meals pilot](#) conducted by HIDOE from 2016-2020.
- Success of the Hawai‘i Farm to School Program will ultimately depend on the program being adequately resourced and staffed, including – at a minimum – hiring of two Farm to School Coordinators within the HIDOE School Food Services Branch, and a School Garden Coordinator within the HIDOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (see [HB2013](#) and [SB2182](#)). **The program will also require proper planning that is informed by and continually inclusive of community input and participation.**

Mahalo nui loa

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:09:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill addresses the needs identified in the [HIDOE “Farm to School Meals” Report to the 2022 Legislature](#) on [Act 175 \(SLH 2021\)](#). It provides necessary funding and requires planning which will ensure that Act 175 is successful. Allocation of funding for a centralized food data system and cafeteria staff training also aligns with the goals and priorities activities identified via the [‘Aina Pono farm to school meals pilot](#) conducted by HIDOE from 2016-2020.

As we all know too well, success of the Hawai‘i Farm to School Program will ultimately depend on the program being adequately resourced and staffed, including – at a minimum – hiring of two Farm to School Coordinators within the HIDOE School Food Services Branch, and a School Garden Coordinator within the HIDOE Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (see [HB2013](#) and [SB2182](#)). The program will also require proper planning that is informed by and continually inclusive of community input and participation.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:21:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Lofty goals have been established by Act 175. Now comes the concrete, nuts and bolts of implementing and ensuring the success of this breakthrough legislation. I support this bill because it works in tandem with other critical bills while identifying the resources necessary to establish and institutionalize the Farm to School system and create a larger culture of healthy lifestyles.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:33:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2304 HD1 that would appropriate funds to DOE to secure additional resources to help implement the Hawaii farm to school program. This measure will meet the State's local food goals in school meals which is a win:win:win for the economy, our keiki, and our climate. Please pass this important legislation. Mahalo.

HB-2304-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:41:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2022 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

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 greatly appreciate that this bill has been introduced & stand in full support for bill HB2304.