

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
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325
AND VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HCR 25
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES
BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR 'AINA PONO
REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES, OR BOTH FROM FOOD
HUBS**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 25. This resolution urges the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch to adopt an addendum to its agreement for 'Aina Pono requiring the procurement of goods, services, or both from food hubs. The Department supports the intent of this resolution, offers the following comments, and defers to Department of Education.

Food hubs are becoming a popular link in the supply chain to channel more locally grown food to consumers and institutions, particularly in rural areas across the State. This resolution helps to address the challenge of local small farmers to scale-up production by providing a pathway to the larger purchasers of safe and marginally processed, locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.



Optimal food nutrition is often attained when the time period between harvesting fresh produce and delivery to food kitchens is reduced to a minimum. For this reason alone, food hubs can serve as an efficient and effective means to serve nutritious products to the Aina Pono Hawai`i State Farm to School program.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/23/2022

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 325 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

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

Title of Resolution: HCR 0025 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES BRANCH TO ADOPT AN ADDENDUM TO ITS AGREEMENTS FOR 'AINA PONO REQUIRING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS, SERVICES, OR BOTH FROM FOOD HUBS.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HCR 0025 and offers some comments.

The School Food Services Branch understands the importance of including local food hub vendors as part of the Department's overall procurement strategy.

The School Food Services Branch will be submitting a Request For Information for food hub vendors and farmers to respond to, which will assist the Department with assessing the feasibility of including food hubs into the Department's farm-to-school program.

Areas that the School Food Services Branch will be looking to gain a better understanding of include the capacity and types of food/products that the food hubs are able to supply and the associated costs; the ability for food hubs to provide substitutions for items that become unavailable; and the ability and capacity for food hubs to deliver products to our schools. These findings will assist with determining the feasibility of food hubs as well as guide decisions on how the Department may move forward with procuring goods and services from food hubs. The findings will also inform the School Food Services Branch on the available types of products being grown locally that can be provided through food hubs and may assist with the development of menus to ensure the School Food Services Branch is meeting federal standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:20:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeri Di Pietro	Hawai'i SEED	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution and HR23 for Food Hubs. This distribution model makes farmer drop off and consumer pick up so much easier and saves time for all parties.

Mahalo,

Hawai'i SEED



House Committee on Agriculture

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HCR25 / HR23

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 9 a.m. Conference Room 325

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

HAPA strongly supports HCR25 / HR23 which urges the Department of Education's food services branch to adopt an addendum to its agreements for 'āina pono requiring the procurement of goods, services, or both, from food hubs.

HAPA supports efforts to incentivize local food hubs and regionalize Hawaii's local food production and aggregation.

Support for local food hubs helps to support the entire local food supply chain through the provision of necessary aggregation services and bringing produce from small local farmers to help bring produce to market. Supporting food hubs supports farmers and our local economy.

This resolution will move public procurement dollars for the public good.

Food hubs also increase markets for small farmers and food producers to sell their produce and food products. It can be challenging for small farmers and food producers to find retail outlets and markets for their goods. Food hubs level the playing field for smaller-scale producers by allowing them to supply larger contracts such as the state 'āina pono program. Our state public procurement dollars could be transformative in growing our local food economy.

Sourcing the DOE with fresh local foods not only supports our local food producers, but provides public school students with fresh, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods.

Food hubs are also believed to assist with the development of resilient and equitable local food systems which provide greater food system equity, taking better care of those in "food deserts", where people have limited access to a variety of healthful foods¹.

¹ MSU Center for Regional Food Systems: Weiss, Andrea (2020) *Equity and collaboration for resilient local food systems across the U.S.*

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/equity-and-collaboration-for-resilient-local-food-systems-across-the-us>

Support of food hubs and local food production will actively help to better prepare us for situations of food scarcity.

The more we support local food production, aggregation and consumption the more we decrease our carbon footprint associated with incoming shipping costs while growing our food security.

Please support HCR25 / HR23. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Date: March 22, 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 HCR25/HR23
Hearing: March 23, 2022 at 9:00am Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HCR25/HR23**, urging the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) School Food Services Branch to adopt an addendum to its agreements for 'Aina Pono requiring the procurement of goods, services, or both from food hubs.

Food hubs play a critical role in the development of sustainable community food systems in Hawai'i by providing aggregation, marketing, and distribution services for small and medium sized farms. Fourteen food hubs that are part of the Food Hub Hui currently aggregate from over 1,000 small farmers across the islands. Many food hubs offer important services such as minimal processing and storage, and are distinguished from other distributors through their sole focus on local sourcing.

Food hubs must play a central and direct role in meeting Hawaii's goals for increased local food procurement by HIDOE, thereby strengthening and sustaining vibrant community food systems through the power of farm to school.

As HIDOE explores a regionalized model for central kitchens, the state must take care to not obstruct or duplicate the efforts of food hubs. Procurement must also be further regionalized from the state and island-levels, allowing a fair chance for food hubs to source directly to HIDOE.

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 food hubs and farm to school, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing this resolution.

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

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:05:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this essential issue. Mahalo,

Elizabeth Hansen, Registered Voter- Hakalau HI 96710

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:09:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators: Please support this essential issue. Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen, Registered Voter- Hakalau HI 96710

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:25:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:08:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support HCR 25 supporting food hubs.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:38:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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 HCR25.

This bill will move public procurement dollars for the public good. Food hubs also provide markets for small farmers and food producers to sell their produce and food products. It can be challenging for small farmers and food producers to find retail outlets and markets for their goods. Food hubs level the playing field for smaller-scale producers by connecting them with customers who want to support local and sustainably grown food. Lastly, food hubs also aggregate produce and added value products and often provide delivery and pick-up options.

Support HCR25.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:17:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:19:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AGR commiittee members,

Please support HCR25 requiring the DOE Food Service branch to buy food for public school lunches from local food hubs.

Hawaii has already passed Act 55 that states they will "encourage the purchase and use of Hawaii-grown food and food products by residents, businesses, and governmental bodies". We, as a State, have also committed to building a sustainable food supply. Purchasing local, healthy foods from local farmers should be a direct follow-on from these commitments.

Please pass Resolution HCR25 and support Hawaii's food hubs and hardworking small farmers.

Thank you for you consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii 96701