

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 2, 2021

9:30 A.M.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE BILL NO. 1251 SD1
RELATING TO FARM TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1251 SD1, relating to the Hawaii farm to school program. This bill establishes a programmatic goal for the Department of Education (DOE) that at least fifteen per cent of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2025, increasing to thirty per cent by 2030. The Department of Agriculture ("the Department") offers comments on this measure.

The Department strongly supports the Farm to School Program and is a committed partner in the effort to bring local agricultural products to menus at our public schools and in all State institutional food service programs through the farm to state program. The Department affirms its commitment to continue connecting farmers to the DOE and other state institutions, providing commodity information, and supporting local producers in obtaining and maintaining the food safety certifications required to provide food to our schools. The Department of Agriculture defers to the Department of Education regarding the goal of sourcing 30% of food served in public schools locally by 2030.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

Date: 03/02/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1251, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030. Requires the Department to report to the Legislature. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1251, SD1 to increase procurement of local produce and food served to students.

The Department's Office of Facilities and Operations School Food Services Branch (SFSB) is currently performing an internal review to evaluate the amount of local product purchased in the 2019-2020 school year. Evaluating the prior year's procurements will assist the Department with assessing baseline amounts of local produce purchased prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SFSB is continually working on systems that will allow the Department to capture the information and data needed to submit the annual report of findings that are recommended in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



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

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Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO:

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 2, 2021
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: SB1251 SD1 Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Position:

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. 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. This measure is a win win. We encourage you to pass it and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1251, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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** Senate Bill No. 1251, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

As received by your Committee, House Bill No. 0702, would allow the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of 15% of food served in public schools to be locally sources by 2025, and 30% by 2030.

This bill would take effect upon approval.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines 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.

Over the past four 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 Senate Bill No. 1251, Senate Draft 1
Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

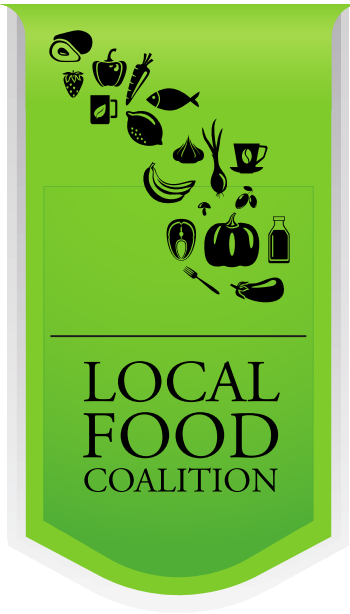
The HPCA also asserts that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely threatened the health and welfare of our citizens, especially Hawaii's underprivileged and rural communities. With so many people unemployed, entire families are struggling to put food on the table on a consistent basis. All one needs to do is visit one of our member FQHC's food distribution events and see the line of cars stretch for miles and the large number of people who wait for hours to receive some surplus food.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a program like this. Our over-reliance 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 utilize more locally-grown food.

We urge 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.



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 2, 2021 – 9:30 A.M. - Videoconference

RE: SB 1251 SD1 -Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program - In Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 1251 SD1, which authorizes the department of education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

Farm to school programs support a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier choices. It's been six years since the adoption of Act 218 which established the Hawaii farm to school program. As of today, it's estimated that only 3% of food served in public schools is locally sourced. Our keiki deserve better. Increased access to fresh, local agricultural products is vital to the health, success and well-being of our keiki. The benchmarks in this bill will help ensure an increase in the amount of local fresh foods for our students.

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 SB 1251 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi
808-544-8319
jgaribaldi@wik.com



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB1251 SD1

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 9:30a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports SB 1251 SD1, which we believe helps to provide a tangible solution to help address gaps and missed opportunities in our local food system, while supporting our farmers and food producers and our local economy.

SB 1251 Authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of 15% of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

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.

These closer proximity relationships will in turn also reduce carbon emissions related to shipping and packaging waste associated with importation from the United States.

SB 1251 also saves the state money by decreasing costs for school meal programs while supporting our local farmers and helping our economy.

Most importantly, SB 1251 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support SB 1251 to help grow our local food economy.

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

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:49:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniela Torres	Testifying for PlanIt Environmental Vision and Branding	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs,

While these are lofty goals, it is better to establish our ideal metrics and strive to achieve them, rather than hang up our hats and say it is too difficult.

PlanIt supports SB1251 SD1

- PlanIt Environmental Vision + Branding

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:48:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To support our local farmers and Hawaii's economy, give our children healthier food and reduce our carbon footprint this Bill is important

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:33:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

This seems like a realistic goal for the DOE's "Aina Pono F2S Food Service Program. Having dates and goals will encourage the other work that needs to be done in order for this % of locally grown food to be integrated into the menu cycle in a timely manner.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:47:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kauaâ€™i	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very important bill for our schools and our food system that gives clear targets and guidance. Please support this, mahalo.



February 28, 2021

To: Chair Dea Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB1251 SD1**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of **SB1251 SD1**, setting a programmatic goal that at least 15% of food served in Hawai'i public schools will be locally sourced by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

Blue Zones Project was brought to Hawai'i by HMSA to help increase the overall well-being of our communities and to make Hawaii a healthier, happier place to live, work and play. To accomplish that goal, we address ways that we can lower obesity rates, tobacco use, and chronic diseases.

Farm-to-school programs are greatly beneficial for youth; studies show that agriculture education, school gardens, and hands-on nutrition learning triples student consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunches¹ and increases access to low-fat fruits and vegetables at home.² In addition, we know that most U.S. youth do not meet the recommendation of eating 2.5 to 6.5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily.³ Exposing more students to fresh produce can shift student's perceptions about healthy foods and influence eating behaviors, both in and out of the school environment.

This bill can help the families of Hawai'i enjoy healthier lifestyles, which is why Blue Zones Project strongly **SUPPORTS SB1251 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Colby Takeda, MPH, MBA
Senior Manager

¹ Koch, P., Wolf, R., Grazioplene, M., Gray, H. L., Trent, R., & Uno, C. (2017) FoodCorps: Creating healthy school environments. Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Program in Nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University.

² Wells, N. M., Meyers, B. M., Todd, L. E., Henderson, C. R., Barale, K., . . . Franz N. K. (2018). The carry-over effects of school gardens on fruit and vegetable availability at home: A randomized controlled trial with low-income elementary schools. *Prevention Medicine*, 112:152-159.

³ National Farm to School Network. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/>



HAWAII

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii 96823

February 28, 2021

TO: Chair Dela Cruz and members of WAM Committee

RE: SB 1251 SD1 Relating to the Farm to School Program

Support for hearing on March 2

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 1251 SD1 as it would authorize the Dept. of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

We support local farmers and believe their food will be nutritious for our children.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President



SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:12:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we are in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1251. Hawaii was once self sufficient in providing food to our people, and we can be again, just by putting our efforts into growing food here in Hawaii. We have the best weather, soil, and abundant water to grow our on food for our schools. Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local economy. It wil also decrease our carbon footprint. A win-win all the way around.

Please vote in support of SB1251.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:41:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Cox	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to support SB1251 Farm to School authorizing the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

This bill makes economic, nutritional, and environmental sense. Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. In addition, it supports access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweetpotato and other locally produced crops.

In addition to the direct benefits to farmers and students, the bill will bolster our local food security by increasing local production. Importantly, it will also decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food, a necessity due to the climate crisis.

Increasing local food in schools also paves the way for having local food in other large institutions, both public and private which further increases food security and reduces our carbon footprint.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Helen Cox

Chair, Kauai Climate Action Coalition



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 1251 SD 1, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 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 SB 1251 SD 1, which authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to achieve local farm to school meal goals of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

Ulupono supports the State's Farm to School efforts to implement local food into statewide meal programs and believes that adopting policies that further advance local food procurement in school meals is important for the success of the DOE's 'Aina Pono program.

Ulupono would like to offer a few amendments for consideration that strengthen the overall farm to school meal goal. We recommend adding in the following language after each percentage goal (page 4 line 20, page 5 line 2, page 6 line 9, and page 6 line 11) to read "as measured by the per cent of the total cost of food."

Pilot projects in Kohala, Mililani and on the island of Kaua'i have been successful at modeling how local food procurement can be expanded when there is buy-in across various state and local entities, community companies and organizations, and the overall community as a whole. By creating a goal-oriented approach to local food adoption in school meals, the State is making a statement to prioritize fresh, nutritious local food for students, support local farmers and ranchers, and achieve Hawai'i's local food production goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 28, 2021

Support of SB1251
Relating to Farm to School
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran and Senate Committee Members,

We are testifying in strong support of SB1251, Relating to Farm to School Procurement.

This is a vital step that is a win/win/win. Existing farmers would have a steady market and a solid opportunity to plan the timing of crops, the students would eat local, fresh, healthy food and the increase of the market for locally produced Hawaii products. Another important benefit would be a decrease in transportation carbon.

By focusing on local foods, keiki will have greater access to more culturally appropriate food. It is such a benefit to learn to appreciate and enjoy what is most commonly available, that is `aina grown, just like they are. The relationship of eating the foods from your land, like kalo, ulu, sweet potato, is a natural connection.

While it makes good economic sense by benefiting the business economy and jobs, it creates healthy eating that will become a lifelong habit. At some point, the opportunity to apply growing, cooking, mechanical maintenance into curriculum is a natural progression. We need young farmers, we start by introducing them to the foods that are produced in a tropical climate. Allowing procurement opens the door for the changes to the food system that need to happen. We cannot be stuck in a cycle that no longer serves us.

Imagine the reduction in waste management when you take importation packaging out of the equation. The food will decrease the cost of the school meal program, and keep our dollars in the hands of the local economy. The unprocessed locally grown food will be free of many artificial ingredients that are added to industrial shipped food.

Please support good food bills. It is happening in school programs around the world with great success. We should adopt these practices too.

Support SB1251!

Mahalo nui loa,

Jeri Di Pietro, President



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 28, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1251, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Brian "Ioane" Jahn and I am writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu Food+ Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal SUPPORT for SB1251, Relating to the Hawai'i Farm to School Program.

SB1251 authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

We are very concerned for communities in Hawai'i with regard to food security, food sovereignty, and overall economic instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As strong advocates for the Farm to School Program, we feel that this is one area where we cannot fail as it deals primarily with the health, safety, well-being, and education of our keiki. With more access to locally sourced foods, the Farm to School program encourages waste reduction, supports school gardens, and enhances health and nutrition for students and their families. Additionally, this program helps to reduce carbon emissions, and provides an example for keiki of what local food systems actually look like, to help make better connections between food, people, and 'āina.

By establishing a realistic goal, or baseline, the Farm to School program can significantly be enhanced to better serve our keiki, as well as our local farming communities. The current Farm to School program only sources 3% of food locally, which means local producers are also missing out on opportunities to provide goods and services to local schools. By authorizing the

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 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

Department of Education (DOE) to meet this local goal of 15% by 2025, and 30% by 2030, the DOE can make a strong start with a clearly defined goal for its newly acquired responsibility.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship, I would like to thank Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for considering the comments made herein.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn & the Food+ Interns

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 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:22:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB1251 SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. **The Climate Protectors STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1251 SD1!** As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase local food production, and decrease food insecurity would be this bill's increasing the percentages of local food served in public schools.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

The Farm to School Program provides students with an agricultural education and supports a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier food choices. With more than eighty-five percent of students in Hawaii attending public schools, participation in farm to school activities increases students' familiarity with local foods, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and the likelihood that students will make healthier choices at home. Currently, it is estimated that three

percent of food served in public schools is locally sourced. This measure will increase the percentage of locally sourced food served in public schools in Hawaii. The program could be expanded to jails, prisons and hotels in the future.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30am

In strong support of SB1251 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members of Ways and Means,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. On behalf of our 6,000 members and supporters, 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB1251 SD1** that authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

Sourcing local food for schools, as this bill would do, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions released in transporting food to Hawaii, improve our food security, and help local farmers and our economy. SB1251 SD1 is common sense legislation that has the added benefit of providing healthy fresh food for our keiki.

Please pass this important and overdue legislation. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this key issue.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



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

March 2, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1251, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Conference Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB 1251, SD1, which authorizes the department of education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of the food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products in all of our state institutions.

HFB appreciates the intent of SB 1251, SD1 which sets goals to increase the required percentage of locally grown produce that the department of education must source for their meals. Policies, investments, and resources that support agriculture are necessary to ensure that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers can supply the produce to meet the goals established in SB 1251, SD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:14:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Testifying for aina momona	Support	No

Comments:

Aina Momona is in strong support of sb 1251. We need to support our local farmers and provide fresh products for our keiki.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

SB1251 SD1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 am
Video Conference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1251 SD1** which authorizes the department of education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public school to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030. Ranchers support the Farm to School program and want to see it prosper, for both the health of our students as well as the health of our economy. We encourage the increase in local food purchasing to support Hawaii's ranchers and farmers, keep funds in the state, and encourage a habit for our students to eat and support local agriculture.

It's been 6 years since the adoption of Act 218 which established the Hawaii farm to school program. As of today, it's estimated that only 3% of food served in public schools is locally sourced. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports increasing that percentage 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Position Statement on Local Beef Production

One of the core strengths of any society lies in its ability to be self-sufficient, to feed itself. Hawaii's beef producers are committed to providing wholesome food for its community that is safe, secure and sustainable.

For most of its existence, Hawaii's beef industry has followed a conventional model with production, harvest and processing occurring within state. In the early 1990's, a combination of rising costs and inefficiencies led Hawaii producers to shift to an export calf model which remains dominant today. However, with increasing consumer demand for locally sourced food, there is renewed focus on expanding local beef production. Several private labels have emerged over the last 10 years, raising the flavor and tenderness profile for local beef, further driving demand. The groundwork for expansion has been set.

In recent years, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) recognized limited harvest capacities as one of the primary constraints for expanding local beef production. It has been HCC's position that each island should have access to a full complement of harvest and processing facilities. The economic benefit of efficiencies achieved with consolidation should be balanced with the unique challenges Hawaii's beef industry faces. These include;

- the vulnerability of interisland transportation of perishable goods and/or live animals as it relates to;
 - food security and safety, animal welfare, affordable shipping rates, labor disputes and equipment failure
- the need to develop and maintain a diversified economic base and skilled labor force on outer islands
- limited competitive markets
- quasi-public responsibility of state-owned food processing facilities

Among other things previously identified (see attached, "A Livestock Harvest Facility for Hawaii"), the ideal model should address;

- Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership
- Increased capacity/access for all producers to harvest, process and market
- Growth of market share through "coopetition" vs direct competition
- Compliance with regulatory planning concepts and concerns, especially as related to environmental issues
- Preservation of the integrity of locally labeled beef
- Opportunity to expand locally branded products

Our producers continue to provide high-quality grass-fed beef year-round, which serves a loyal, sustainability-minded customer base that increasingly want to know where their food comes

from. HCC supports a business model that facilitates infrastructure that allows each island to maintain autonomy over its beef production from gate to plate.

A Livestock Harvest Facility for the State of Hawaii Hawaii Cattlemen's Council



Senate Bill 1257 provides \$1.5M for the planning and design of a livestock harvest facility within the state of Hawaii. This is an ambitious initiative that represents our strong belief in the future of our industry and our commitment to building infrastructure that will help grow and expand our local markets.

Our critical need for this project is based on the following;

- a. increased consumer demand for local beef
- b. increased market demand created by expanding programs, such as our schools' Aina Pono initiative
- c. availability for producers' strategic culling programs
- d. security for animal welfare in the face of disease or drought

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for planning and design should include the following key components and deliverables from firms who will respond;

1. An analysis of a viable business/feasibility plan that addresses expected throughput, revenues, expenses and return on investment related to the operation of a new facility. Our initial recommendation for Hawaii Island is for a 5,000 head capacity that can be expanded to 10,000 head/year. This will be varied island by island. We see this information as critical to attracting capital to our state and industry.
2. Schematics and drawings of the layout of a new facility that can be adapted to meet different environmental conditions for each island and can scale up or down to meet production needs.
3. Analysis and review of technologies to support the remote locations and sensitive environments in which this facility will operate.

4. Review of the following key features of the facility itself. These features will ensure that the proposed model will meet our goal of creating a facility that serves the sustainability needs of our industry addressed through these economic, social and environmental considerations.

Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity (target steady state, initial, and ramp up) • Scalable/modular • Marketing partner • Added value/processing • Certification for specialty markets – i.e. export, BRC, GFSI • Management expertise • Transportation costs • Flexible marketing – direct sale vs retained ownership • Innovation and technology • Useful life • Potential for multi-species use • Scope of facility—slaughter, processing, and further processing capabilities • Value Added Products and Processing
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Worker safety • Animal well-being • Employee engagement • Central location • Affordable housing
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Waste disposal - bio digester • Water resources and requirements • Critical path for permits • Environmental Impact Statement • Air emissions/odor • Proximity to existing infrastructure and need for establishment of new connections to electrical, water, wastewater, and roadways.

HCC believes our industry and agriculture as a whole are at a critical crossroads. There is a great deal to be optimistic about including consumer demand for more locally sourced food, public officials who have declared a commitment to improve Hawaii’s food security, an advocate in our HDOA administration who believe in the need for Hawaii’s agriculture to thrive and people within the ranching community with the will to move our industry forward. These things combine to create powerful synergy to keep our industry and agriculture a vibrant and relevant part of our state’s economy and landscape. This project is the result of that synergy and a real, tangible move forward for the beef industry.



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Date: March 1, 2021

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Lydi Bernal, Hawaii'i Farm to School Hui Coordinator

Re: SUPPORT for SB1251 SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Farm to School Program

Hearing: March 2, 2021 at 9:30am Via Videoconference



Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB1251 SD1 with a recommended amendment**, which authorizes the department of education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

Hawaii'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawaii'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Forceⁱ and the Hawaii'i Farm to School Huiⁱⁱ, which **collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.**

In order to highlight the importance of indigenous staple crops such as taro, breadfruit, and sweet potato in Hawaii's journey toward food security and food self-sufficiency, **we respectfully request that SB1251 SD1 be amended to include "staple starches" within the definition of "fresh local agricultural product" on Page 5, Line 18:**

"Fresh local agricultural product" means fruits, vegetables, **staple starches**, nuts, coffee, eggs, poultry and poultry products, livestock and livestock products, milk and milk products, aquacultural and maricultural products, and horticultural products one hundred per cent grown, raised, and harvested in the State.

It is important to note that USDA allows the following as a substitute for 1 serving of grains/bread within USDA-reimbursable meals: ½ cup poi, 1 cup taro, or 1 cup breadfruit.

We also reaffirm the importance of ensuring a holistic approach to farm to school, through the **integration of school gardens, on-campus farming, and other forms of 'āina-based education** together with the focus on improving school food.

Thank you for your strong support of farm to school!

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

(continued on next page)

ⁱ Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** comprises of over 40 statewide organizations, and works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

ⁱⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders 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) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 5:12:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mikyla Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 25, 2021

To: Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran

Subject: SUPPORT OF SB 1251

Aloha nui kakou,

My name is Mikyla Hi'ilani Thomas. In my 29 years of life, my neighborhoods have been Kuli'ou'ou, Wailuku, HÄ• na, PÄ• lolo, Kaunakakai and now Mililani and because of this I have a unique perspective on food, health, and public education as it correlates to an individual's self determination. I am a Sustainable Community Food Systems major at University of Hawai'i West O'ahu and have been passionate about food system reform since I was in grade school.

This bill has truly been crafted to be a win-win situation for improving our food system resilience, local farmers, students and increasing the money supply within the local economy. As a Mother of two children who attend (and will attend) school in the DOE, I support this bill. This bill will allow more children to connect with foods that are grown well here in Hawai'i and these opportunities are beyond quantifiable. The DOE serves about 179,000 lunches each school day, if there are about 180 school days in a year that's 32,220,000 missed opportunities to create relationships with local and healthy foods.

This bill opens the possibility to replace imported grains with healthier, fresher, Hawaiian staple foods and will serve as the beginning step to cultural restoration and community healing. I am currently working on a farm to put myself through college while sustaining my household. My daughters Elementary is just a mile from the farm. Oftentimes we do not sell out of produce, yet my daughter continues to see produce on her school cafeteria plate that is sourced from a farm over 2,500 miles away. This doesn't make sense, we need to keep Hawai'is tax dollars here and not send them away.

It is not easy for me to see Native Hawaiian children not have access to their traditional foods because of economic constraints.

As a 2009 graduate of Hawai'i's Public School System and I stand before you exuding my General Learner Outcome of a Community Contributor. For me, I realized at a young age that my education system and the food put on my plate at school were decisions made for me by uncompassionate people from far away places with minimal ties to this 'Ä• ina. Identity loss through colonization has traumatized the most vulnerable of the Native Hawaiian community - its children, and it has shaped the way they see themselves.

SB 1251 opens the doors for students, teachers, staff and administrators to view food as an avenue of empowerment. My hope is that state officials, the leaders of our communities and the Department of Education would also increase their urgency to utilize public school institutions as a pathway to improve public health of the next generation through locally sourced produce in cafeterias while integrating Hawaiian staple foods onto cafeteria menus. The reality is we have willing people, we have community support, why not show Hawai'i's children they are not overlooked, they are not undervalued and we support the nourishment of the next generation of our leaders?

The future leaders of Hawai'i are the students of today. Increasing access to traditional Hawaiian foods and also produce that is locally cultivated, would create local food system resilience and provide cultural rehabilitation for both keiki and farmer.

As teachers, parents and stakeholders who understand the critical role that nutrition plays in public health, behavior, attention spans and academic success, it should be our top priority to adopt the responsibility to adequately nourish Hawai'i's students. For Me, as a product of the public school system, farmer, and Native Hawaiian mother of two who finds it challenging to afford her cultural foods, I can say that supporting this bill, SB 1251 is a feasible step in the right direction.

Mahalo for your time and careful consideration,

Mikyla Hi'ilani Thomas

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:02:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

N/a

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:50:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakāleia, O‘ahu and I'm a lifelong resident of Hawai‘i in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing to support SB1251 for the following reasons:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

Support this bill.

me ke aloha ‘Āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:20:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the goals established by this bill. Our kids deserve to eat healthy locally grown food. If anything, I wish the goals were more ambitious.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:48:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rosenbaum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Im Claudia Rosenbaum and strongly support bill SB1251. Our children deserve healthy nutritional food. It is essential for their health and resistance to disease. Growing healthy habits begins as a child. Let's support this education to eat healthier for less disease and stronger immune systems for our future generations. The institutional use of our local agricultural is also vital for the security of our farmers. Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Claudia Rosenbaum

Kula, HI

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:58:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:00:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Maui and mother of two. I support SB1251 SD1 because children deserve to be feed local farm fresh foods in school. Local foods for schools is supporting local farmers and the economy. It provides good foods from the island from the earth which are nutritious for children. Overall it's more sustainable to grow food on the island and decrease imported foods. The children are fed for better health, it's better for environment (carbon footprint), local farmers, economy so many pluses.

Thank you, Celle Galarza

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 11:14:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 7:10:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Of course, I want our children to be eating only the best, freshest, locally grown and organic produce. Not only for their health, but also so that it becomes normalized for them, so they too will continue the transition from processed, institutionalized, industrialized food products, to real, pure, healthy organic fresh food.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:55:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sourcing local food for schools, such as kalo and sweet potato, will provide more culturally appropriate and familiar and nutritious food to our keiki, while supporting our local farmers and growing our local food economy and security. It is also better for our environment to decrease our carbon footprint rather than importing less healthy food.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:08:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb1251 sd1

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:04:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:49:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our keiki deserve organically managed local food to thrive. Making sense of bananas shipped from elsewhere is impossible, so let's just talk the economics of infusing monies back into our local economy. Please take action in support of this bill.

Mahalo!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:19:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's support our farms and our students with this measure.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:56:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!!!! Should be MUCH more, but it's a start.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:00:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rona Bennett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to provide local fresh food to our children. This would help farmers and schools.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:50:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Sevy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this Bill. It supports healthy agricultural evolution in the state.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:00:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is R.Momi Ventura I Currently Have No Address, But I Am Able To Submit Testimony From My Tablet. This Bill My Family And I Support Is Sourcing Our Local Food For Schools Will Make Public Dollar's To Support Our Local Farmers And Help Grow Our Local Food Economy. Support Access To More Nutritional Foods Such As Kalo, Sweet Potato And Many More. Thank You Soo Much For Your Time And Help.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:14:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it will allow our children fresh, healthful food and support our local farmers. It's a win/win. Please pass it.

Mahalo.

Sherry Pollock, Anahola

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:31:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

please support food security in our state. This bill helps do that by providing our farmers with a great outlet for their products and for keiki to enjoy and grow with healthy, locally produced food.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:01:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Maltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is the most important bill to support. The children are the future of the islands and deserve to eat the freshest, healthiest food available. This program is essential to teach the value of locally grown food, appreciation for where their food comes from, and how we can encourage the children to get involved in building a robust local economy around regenerative agriculture.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:18:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1251 SD1 and the farm to school program. We should rely on a significant amount of our school food supply to come from local farmers. Fresh and local food is nutritionally beneficial. We should also ensure we provide sufficient funding for these programs.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:24:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii DOE has tremendous power to influence a cultural shift towards consuming more locally-grown food, not only through their massive purchasing power, but also through the vital education of our keiki. Farm-to-School is a no-brainer, although it would be nice if the goals were even more aggressive.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:31:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My name is DANiel Bishop and I am in support ofSB1251

Mahalo

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:42:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is so needed - please pass it :) Mahalo

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 4:50:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB1251 will allow kids to have more nutritious food and use tax dollars to support local farmers. It's a win/win proposal.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:39:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

We can't keep bringing all our food in from thousands of miles away!

Please support this bill to authorize the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal: 15% of food served in public schools locally sourced by 2025, and 30% by 2030.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 8:51:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi Joan here from West Hawaii supporting SB1251. This authorizes the DOE to meet the local to school meal goal of 15%of food be locally sourced by 2025 and 30% by 2030. Good for child nutrition need and for local farmers.

Hank You

Joan Gannon

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:11:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators: Please support this bill. It will decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food, and therefore, will bolster our local food security. This sourcing of local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Hansen,
Hakalau, HI

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:43:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators: Please support this bill. It will decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food, and therefore, will bolster our local food security. This sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:57:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Valkenaar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is important that the children in our Public Schools get fed food which is grown on lands on which they live. We need to increase our local food production and decrease the amount that we import. This is one good way to begin.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:34:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Hathaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I am an educator in our public schools. I want our kids eating healthy food that is locally grown and supporting the very community we live in. What better way to demonstrate the inter-connectedness of our lives. Unfortunate disasters are bound to happen again.

Let us be better prepared to provide stability for our young people by securing our food source. It will keep our money in Hawaii as well, to generate more programs to benefit our children's learning and keep them hopeful of their future.

Thank you for passing SB1251.

Cynthia Hathaway

HC1 Box 5377, Keaau, HI 96749

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:54:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Freeman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will have so many positive benefits on the health of Kauai's children as well as supporting farmers.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:53:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1251. It actually should happen even sooner than 2025.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:11:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marianne george	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Our children need healthy locally grown foods!
- One of the main hurdles farmers often cite is lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawai'i
- Will help reduce our dependence on imported food
- Will support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:52:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:17:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne lindgren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in support of SB1251 for the following reasons:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Jeanne Lindgren

2122 Hillcrest St

Honolulu, HI 96817

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:34:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 28, 2021

Members of the Committee:

I support SB1251 (Farm to School) which authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030.

Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. It will also build local food security and will decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food.

I hope you will also support SB1251.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd.

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:58:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bursack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support local agriculture and healthy food for our keikis!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

This Farm to School program is a vital part of moving our state forward in agriculture. It benefits farmers with steady markets of their produce and it benefits kids with healthy food to eat. It also helps improve our food security. What a big win for all.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan

Lawai, HI

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:24:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill for the health of Hawaii's schoolchildren and Hawaii's farmers!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:21:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1251 because it makes sense for food grown in Hawaii be served in our schools to our students. I would like public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. It makes sense to align our school menu with recommended healthy island foods as kalo/taro, sweet potato, greens, fish and others. This also provides access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students who may not get these at home. This measure also bolsters our local food security and decreases our carbon footprint associated with imported foods.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:06:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Melia Leslie. The following reasons are why I support this bill. It's about time we source local foods for our keiki in schools. It's healthier, supports our local farmers and keeps the money in Hawaii. This should be a no brainer.

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:40:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Let's support our farmers here! Buy local!
- This creates more local jobs, and keeps the money in Maui and Hawaii
- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:30:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, SUPPORT this vital legislation.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:31:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Healthy students starts with healthy food. Studies have shown this over and over. Why are we spending out tax payers dollars to import food for schools when the majority of it can be grown here?

It reduces our carbon footprint and the food is fresher, not picked un-ripe and gassed to ripen.

It also supports out local farmers since there are so many restrictions on exporting foor from the islands.

Please pass this Bill and lets do right by our Children and farmers.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Maui

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:55:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Millerd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sydney Millerd and I am writing to express support for SB1251. As a student of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program, I understand how this measure will greatly benefit our keiki and communities. Thus, I hope that you too show your support for the measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:56:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill that will help our kids be healthier, help reduce our carbon footprint, and most importantly help us on the way to sustainability for our islands.

Thank You,

Denise Woods

Kauai, HI

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:10:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 1251, which authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of 15% of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

This is a very important bill for many reasons. Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. It will support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, ulu, sweet potato and others which is important as many children rely on school meals for adequate nutrition. And with climate change affecting us all, it solidifies our local food security and decreases the carbon footprint associated with imported food. It also will help teach our keiki about where our food comes from and about community in taking care of our ohana through feeding each other and taking care of the aina through sustainable and local food products. Thank you.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:11:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members, please support SB1251 SD1, which would authorize the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of 15 percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy. This will also support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others.

This policy also bolsters our local food security and decrease the carbon footprint associated with imported food, putting us on a path toward a more sustainable society that can survive the coming challenges of climate chaos.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:39:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Brian "loane" Jahn, and I live in Wahiawa, Kukaniloko, O'ahu, with my three keiki and my father. I am writing to express my strong support for SB1251. I am extremely concerned for communities in Hawai'i with regard to food security, food sovereignty, and overall economic instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a strong advocate for the Farm to School Program, I feel that this is one area where we cannot fail as it deals primarily with the health, safety, well-being, and education of our keiki. With more access to locally sourced foods, the Farm to School program encourages waste reduction, supports school gardens, and enhances health and nutrition for students and their families. Additionally, this program helps to reduce carbon emissions, and provides an example for keiki of what local food systems actually look like, to help make better connections between food, people, and 'Ä• ina.

The current Farm to School program only sources 3% of food locally, which means local producers are also missing out on opportunities to provide goods and services to local schools. By authorizing the Department of Education (DOE) to meet this local goal of 15% by 2025, and 30% by 2030, the DOE can make a strong start with a clearly defined goal for its newly acquired responsibility. Mahalo for taking the time to consider these facts.

Me ke aloha,

Brian "loane" Jahn

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:36:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The more food production is locally sourced, the more responsible such production is. Linking schools to nutritious local produce supports the development of food security in general.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:39:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill so local farms can supply schools with food grown locally. This helps support local business. Not importing is also more sustainable and caring of the planet. Another plus is that money stays on our island and is circulated here, rather than going off island to line the pockets of impersonal mega corporations. Supporting this bill also builds bridges to later collaboration between farms and schools to learn with and from each other on how to grow sustainably, healthy food.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:32:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Trainor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Pahoa HI and am in support of SB1251

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:43:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:22:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
uma nagendra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to SUPPORT SB1251, which authorizes the Department of Education to meet the farm to school program goals of 15 percent locally sourced food by 2025.

Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.

This supports access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others. It bolsters our local food security, and decreases our carbon footprint associated with imported food.

Thank you for your consideration,

Uma Nagendra

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:36:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chandra radiance	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Allow schools monies to support local organic farmers to keep the kids healthier and the farmers happier!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:39:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1251. As an educator, I notice a huge difference for my students when they come to class nourished with fresh, unprocessed local food. Also, many of my students' families are farmers; I believe that if the farmers/families are supported, this will create a better home life for students, which in turn supports their academic performance. Please pass SB1251!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:17:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
josh mori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Josh Mori and I strongly support SB1251 SD1. As a farmer that farms on a public school site it is really frustrating that our own cafeteria is unable to purchase produce being grown and harvested 300 yards away. We would love to produce food for our students as well as provide of the surrounding schools but thus far this has not been a reality. Our students deserve the best opportunities we can afford them and proper nutrition is critical in helping maximize their brain function. By supporting farm to school initiatives we take a major step forward in weeding out the dependence on manufactured and processed food. As well as helping expand the educational opportunities for students to have a hand in the development of the food they eat daily. I hope we can move past this 40 year old failed experiment of allowing corporate control over our schools food programs. Mahalo for your time and please pass SB1251 SD1

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:23:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as well. It's so important to push Hawaii towards a more sustainable direction and to allow a better system for our schools. It's a win for everyone! Mahalo

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:49:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support all farm to school programs. We should be providing all healthy, Hawaii grown foods to our children. It will help support our local families, create a more logical food supply for our local children and eliminate the added expenses of shipping in so much food from the mainland. It will also help our local farmers and create local jobs for our people. Thank you, Brandi Corpuz (Kihei, Maui)

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:25:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly in favor of SB1251, and urge you to vote to support this bill. Our sustainable future needs to be built on supporting local agriculture for local consumption, and there is no better way to start than to ensure that our schools are buying and serving local produce to our keiki.

This bill would invest in our farmers by creating dependable income for them; it would expand our local economy and create much greater food security than we are currently experiencing. Using state funds to purchase locally produced food keeps the money circulating locally and makes our economy more resilient. It's also important to recognize that locally grown food will be fresher, more nutritious, and more culturally appropriate than processed food that is shipped from the mainland. Lastly, we have all recognized during the last year that Hawai'i's food system is dangerously dependent on imported food, whose supply chain can be easily interrupted by disasters and whose transport results in a very high carbon footprint. Let's start on a new path, where we in Hawai'i focus on local needs and choose to nourish our people and especially our keiki with food grown right here, while helping our farmers to continue to support us with the fruits of their labor.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

1728 Hulu Rd.

Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:37:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zack Stoddard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a great way to increase demand for local produce.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:43:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this because:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:58:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Laliberte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

This bill is so important to pass, and I give it my strongest support. Our keiki deserve healthier, tastier, and locally-sourced food. Currently, school lunches are mostly processed because the ingredients are shipped in from thousands of miles away. This is unsustainable and inefficient for so many reasons. Passing SB1251 would be a win-win for students, farmers and the local economy. Offering state contracts for locally-sourced ingredients would be a boom for local famers, small businesses, and students would enjoy healthier, tastier lunches. I say YES!

Thank you very mych,

Liz Laliberte

Hilo, HI

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:11:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of SB 1251 SD 1, which authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030. Requires the Department to report to the Legislature. (SD1).

SB 1251 SD 1 would not only substantially boost food production for local farmers by increasing fresh produce availability to Hawai'i's students and staff, but would move the state towards local food production goals. Successful local food procurement for Department of Education schools has been demonstrated with pilot projects on O'ahu, Kauai and Hawai'i Island.

Not only will students and staff benefit from eating more culturally appropriate, higher nutrient content, locally sourced food, but their growing appreciation for Hawai'i's local farmers and agriculture in general will flourish as well. Mahalo for your support of Farm to School programs, and the health and vitality of Hawai'i's families.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:42:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:27:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and WAM Committee members,

I support the goals of SB1251 SD1 to serve more locally-sourced food in the public schools.

- 15% food locally sourced by 2025

- 30% food locally sourced by 2030

Children who consume local food sourced from local farms get far more than healthy produce. The relationships formed benefit both Hawaii's children and Hawaii farmers. Keikis benefit by having healthier, locally-grown produce for lunch, and farmers get to tap into new markets: the nearby schools. Additionally, relationships in the neighborhood grow stronger: the farmer may invite the kids to his farm, and some kids may even grow up to be farmers (or scientists).

This is a win-win. Please support SB1251 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:37:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob B Shearer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Hawai'i makes progress in supporting local food production, we also need to make progress on ensuring local demand for local food. This mutually beneficial relationship embeds local production in our communities and our culture. What better way than increasing the amount of GOOD, nutritious local food to our students? They deserve the best sustenance we can provide, and local farmers are thrilled to have their produce go stright back to their communities. Please support this bill for the sake of a better future for our students and our farmers.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:49:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chambrie keale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Chambrie Keale a student of Kapa'a High School. I have been enrolled in the Natural Resources and Agriculture academy for a over 3 years. The head of the academy, Mr, Caraway has put together a beautiful garden on our campus which he plans to soon plant food that we can supply to the cafeteria. I thinkk that having a farm to school system would be beneficial towards eveybody therefore making it the ideal situation.

Mahalo, Chambrie Keale

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:08:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
connor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the school lunch being so gross and not very healthy I think that if we implement a garden to which we can grow and maybe farm animals it will benefit the kids and staff that eat lunch at school. Also can be a learning experience to kids that never farmed or got into the agriculture environment and change minds about agriculture.

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:21:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT for SB1251. DOE has a huge role to play in many ways!

Please support this important bill and mahalo for your service,

James McCay
Honolulu

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:22:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:25:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Testifying for DPH Environmental Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

The Democratic Party of Hawaii Environmental Caucus STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1251 SD1! As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase local food production, and decrease food insecurity would be this bill's increasing the percentages of local food served in public schools.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen percent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty percent by 2030.

The Farm to School Program provides students with an agricultural education and supports a nutritious school food environment that encourages students to make healthier food choices. With more than eighty-five percent of students in Hawaii attending public schools, participation in farm to school activities increases students' familiarity with local foods, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and the likelihood that students will make healthier choices at home. Currently, it is estimated that three percent of food served in public schools is locally sourced. This measure will increase the percentage of locally sourced food served in public schools in Hawaii. The program could be expanded to jails, prisons and hotels in the future.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:26:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:35:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that's a win-win for students and agriculture. It helps provide healthy food to our students, and it supports agriculture, a sector of our economy we need to promote as we work toward diversifying our economy. Doing so also lessens our vulnerability of being so heavily reliant on food from outside Hawaii. (From a Windward O'ahu resident since 1963 and a voter in every election since I turned 18.)

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:44:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Penn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB1251. I think it is very important for our keiki to have access to nutritious meals. They also can learn how to grown their own food and start a family garden at home.

LATE

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:25:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

3/2/2021: Testimony Supporting SB 1251, SD1 / Relating to The Hawaii Farm to School Program

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

As the manager of a family farm in Wai`anae, I write in support of SB 1251, SD 1, which authorizes the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030. This bill also requires that the Department provide periodic report/updates to the Legislature. This is very important measure not only supports Hawai`i's farmers, but also ensures that our students receive fresh and nutritious produce while in school.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you please **PASS SB1251SD1 out of your committee WITH any necessary funding.** Many thanks for this opportunity to present this testimony in the interest of supporting Hawai`i's farmers and increasing our food security via support of SB1251/SD1.

Nancy Jones, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

LATE

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:27:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

3/2/2021: Testimony Supporting SB 1251, SD1 / Relating to The Hawaii Farm to School Program

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

As a Wai`anae farmer, I submit this testimony in support of SB 1251, SD 1, to authorize the Department of Education to meet the local farm to school meal goal of fifteen per cent of food served in public schools to be locally sourced by 2025 and thirty per cent by 2030. This bill also includes a reporting requirement from the Department to the Legislature. This is a critically important measure to support Hawai`i's farmers, and also ensures that our students receive nutritious, fresh food.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to please **PASS SB1251SD1 out of your committee WITH any necessary funding.** *Mahalo* for this opportunity to present this testimony to support Hawai`i's farmers, our *keiki*, and to increase our food security via support for SB1251/SD1.

ZEBUEL "ZEB" JONES, PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

LATE

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:53:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Sobocinski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

I am in full support of this bill. Increasing local procurement provides our farmers and producers with a secure market for their goods. It also supports the growth of the state's agricultural sector, which helps diversity Hawai'i's economy, leading to economic resilience.

Mahalo,

Jess

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:11:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Sourcing local food for schools will move public dollars to support our local farmers and help grow our local food economy.
- Support access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods for students such as kalo, sweet potato and others
- Bolsters our local food security
- Decrease our carbon footprint associated with imported food

Please pass this bill into law. Mahalo for the consideration!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 3:18:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Rose Reilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The modest amount of increase in local foods to our schools seems to be minimalist in its objective in light of such a generous timeline. Please consider at least doubling the amount of expected local foods to schools in this timetable. Mahalo

LATE

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:12:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1251 SD1. We can have a win for kids, health, schools, farmers and pocket books all at once!

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:08:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I thoroughly support this Bill.

LATE

SB-1251-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:12:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

As a teacher, this bill is really dear to me. We need to get locally grown nutritious food to our keiki in schools. Not only does this support local agriculture and farmers but it also helps get good and nutritious food to our students.

I remember doing a GLAD workshop at Kahului Elementary where they gave every student half an avocado at morning recess and students were so excited to eat their fruit in the morning. We need to make sure we have more of these programs and that these foods are grown here in the Hawaiian islands and not shipped here.

Today our students ate "cheese crisps" for lunch and I don't even know what that is. But I do know it was not locally sourced. By creating farm to school programs we will make sure that our students are fed good nutritious foods that will help them concentrate and learn.

Please pass this bill and help us gain food security, importing 92% of our food while not giving our keiki the most nutrient rich food is a disservice and I would argue is criminal.

Mahalo,
Fitz