



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

Date: 03/18/2021
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309 & 430 Via
Videoconference
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 1385, SD2 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to develop a reorganization plan to provide students and schools with centralized transportation services. Requires the department of education to develop a plan to provide students with more locally produced food. Requires the department of education to report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports a centralized approach to providing students and schools with food and transportation services as proposed in SB 1385, SD2.

The overall program management and service delivery of food and transportation services are, for the most part, centralized. Reorganization to provide further centralization in both areas could lead to additional efficiencies and service improvements. As part of its modernization efforts, the Department is currently exploring such opportunities as coordinating school bell schedules to better meet student transportation needs, increasing bus efficiency and student capacity, and centralizing food preparation.

The implementation of centralized kitchens and Farm to School measures may also assist in increasing the procurement of foods directly from local farmers. Centralized kitchens will allow farmers to deliver food to one site, as opposed to having many delivery points at multiple schools. This eases the burden on farmers and will increase local farmer participation in bid solicitations, which will increase the procurement of local

produce and food as contemplated by this measure.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

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.



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March 18, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 1385, SD2
RELATING TO EDUCATION

Conference Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, 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 1385, SD2, which requires the department of education to develop a plan to provide students with more locally produced food.

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 1385, SD2 which sets a goal to increase the purchase of locally produced food 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 products to meet the goals established in SB 1385, SD2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Thursday, March 18, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 1385 SD 2, Relating to Education.

Dear Chair Woodson 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 the intent of SB 1385 SD 2, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a reorganization plan to provide students and schools with centralized transportation services; requires the DOE to develop a plan to provide students with more locally produced food; and, requires the provision of locally produced food to increase 5% annually until 2026.

Ulupono supports increasing local food within the DOE's school meal programs. We estimate that locally sourced food purchases make up less than 4% of the DOE's current total food cost. We believe that establishing a goal of 30% locally sourced food within the DOE's school meal programs by 2030, as measured by the percent of the total cost of food, is reasonable and can be accomplished. In less than one year, 'Aina Pono pilot projects were able to increase the percentage of locally grown food from roughly 2% to 24% and from 3% to 15% at participating schools while lowering food costs at those schools.

We ask the committee to consider establishing this goal separate from any plan and requiring annual reports to the legislature with updates on meeting the goal. While it is important to require the DOE to develop a plan to increase locally produced food in its meal programs, we feel that this effort should not preclude the DOE from moving forward with locally grown food procurement statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

SB-1385-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:14:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

An organized system for transport and food is necessary.

SB-1385-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:45:51 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

SB-1385-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:43:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear EDN and FIN Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I support this bill, SB1385 SD2, which has two goals:

1. improve the school transportation system for students
2. develop a plan to provide students with more locally-produced food*

* I will strongly support this bill if the plan's emphasis is put on fresh local produce as opposed to "local food products." (I love local products, but they are not all appropriate for healthy lunches and snacks.)

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii