



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

**Date:** 02/07/2022

**Time:** 03:20 PM

**Location:** CR 229 + videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2891 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Directs the Department of Education to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2891 and appreciates the inclusion of an appropriation to conduct a study on the inclusion of food hubs for goods and services related to the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm-to-School Program.

The Department understands the importance of including local food hub vendors as part of the Department's overall procurement strategy and agrees that a study is needed to assess the feasibility of including food hubs into the Department's farm-to-school program.

To gain a better understanding of how food hubs will service the Department, the Department's School Food Service Branch will consider the capacity and types of food or products that the food hubs are able to supply and the associated costs; the ability for food hubs to provide substitutions to items that become unavailable; and their ability and capacity to deliver products to our schools. These findings will be used to determine the feasibility of including food hubs in the farm-to-school program as well as guide decisions on how the Department may move forward with procuring goods and services from food hubs. The findings may also inform the School Food Service Branch on the available types of products being grown locally that can be provided through food hubs and guide the development of menus aligned with the federal standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program.

The Department appreciates this proposal and the inclusion of funding but asks that any additional funding does not affect the Department's top budget priorities to restore funds that were reduced as a result of the fiscal fallout from COVID-19 and the funding of existing budget shortfalls that were included in the Department's Supplemental Budget Request. Without those funds, the Department will face severe constraints on its ability to continue to promote equity and access to needed resources and support for all schools and students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2891

**February 7, 2022**  
**3:20 p.m.**  
**Room 229 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2891 requires the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program and submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023. The bill also appropriates an unspecified sum in general funds for FY 23 to conduct the study.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Date: February 5, 2022

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

Re: SUPPORT for SB2891, Relating to the Department of Education

Hearing: February 7, 2022 at 3:20pm Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB2891**, which directs the Department of Education (HIDOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program.

We thank the legislature for recognizing the crucial efforts made by food hubs to aggregate on behalf of Hawaii's small farmers. Fourteen food hubs that are part of the Food Hub Hui currently aggregate from over 1,000 small and medium sized farms across the islands. Many food hubs offer important services such as minimal processing and storage, and are distinguished from other distributors through their sole focus on local sourcing.

Food hubs must play a central and direct role in meeting Hawaii's goals for increased local food procurement by HIDOE, thereby strengthening community food systems through the power of farm to school. As HIDOE explores a regionalized model for central kitchens, the state must take care to not obstruct or duplicate the efforts of food hubs. Procurement must also be further regionalized from the state/island-level, allowing a fair chance for food hubs to source directly to HIDOE, instead of through existing large-scale distributors.

The **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five Island Networks and over forty public-private entities with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are: 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) food education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement. The Hui formed in 2010 and is a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute.

The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui appreciates this Committee's strong support of farm to school and local food hubs, and respectfully requests that the Committee continue this support by passing SB2891.

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



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

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2891**  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, 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 2891**, which directs the Department of Education to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program.

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

Small farmers typically do not have access to facilities and infrastructure to aggregate, process, and distribute products to local consumers. The challenge to small growers is also complicated by stringent regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), jeopardizing the ongoing viability of many small growers due to the costs of compliance.

In Hawaii, additional challenges to small farmers include high costs in land, labor, and energy, as well as limited access to water supply for irrigation. Food hubs are an important subset of food value chains. Many farmers and ranchers, especially small-sized operations, often lack the capacity to access retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets on their own and consequently miss out on a fast-growing segment

of the local food market. By offering a combination of aggregation, distribution, and marketing services at an affordable price, food hubs make it possible for many producers to gain entry into the Aina Pono Farm to School program and new larger-volume markets that boost their income and provide them with opportunities for scaling up production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Monday, February 7, 2022 — 3:20 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 2891, Relating to the Department of Education.**

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports the intent of SB 2891**, which directs the Department of Education (DOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm-to-School Program.

Ulupono supports the DOE's efforts to increase local food sourcing across the State. Food hubs provide an opportunity for the DOE to purchase from small farmers through an aggregated supply chain. It is important to note that the DOE has successfully contracted with local food hubs to provide fresh, nutritious foods for student meals. As such, a plan may not be necessary. For example, the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers' Coop (HUPC) provided much-needed local produce to the DOE in their efforts to increase local sourcing for various menu items. Unfortunately, the DOE has recently decided to pull back on this contract and change course. We recommend that this committee urge the DOE to re-establish food hub contracts, such as the HUPC contract, as part of its overall approach to meeting Act 175 (2021) and Act 176 (2021) goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:12:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	No

Comments:

There has been a lot of discussion over many years as to how SFSB/DOE can diversify their procurement practices when purchasing more locally produced foods and also diversifying the menu cycle. Insisting that all students eat the same meal every day in the 5 week cycle, puts many restraints on the DOE's purchasing options. The new statewide Food Hub Hui (14 Food Hubs) and the interest and creation of even more Food Hubs throughout the Hawaiian Islands is certainly one answer to that ongoing dilemma. These Hubs can become points of aggregation and distribution for schools (just like the DOD's FRESH FAVORS program) however, SFSB must become more flexible, get a working IT system, and be willing to have a varied menu cycle. A Food Hub Study appropriation would seem like a step in the right direction.....and be done sooner than later....with a third party (like Saleh Azizi of the Food Hub Hui) assisting SFSB, DOE frets about how will food get to the schools. I'm assuming that every Food Hub will have a delivery service.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:32:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ken Love	Testifying for Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers is in Full support of SB2891. To strengthen the farm to school connection and family farm sustainability is our collective future.

Only through hub programs like this can we collectively feed our children more healthy locally grown produce and help small farms become more sustainable



Farmer owned, 'āina grown

**Testimony In Support of the Intent of SB 2891**  
*Relating to the Department of Education*  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 7, 2022

Email: [info@eatbreadfruit.com](mailto:info@eatbreadfruit.com)

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

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee,

*The Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative supports the intent of SB 2891 Relating to the Department of Education with the following amendment considerations.*

My name is Dana Shapiro and I am the General Manager of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative (HUC), a food hub with 113+ farmer-members located on three islands (Hawai'i, Maui, and O'ahu). We formed the Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative (HUC) in 2016 to build a network of small-scale, diversified farms that grow breadfruit and other indigenous, local staples in order to improve community access to these nutritious foods and to increase Hawai'i's food security and resilience.

**From 2018 to 2020 we were a primary local supplier for the DOE's 'Aina Pono program,** providing tens of thousands of pounds of minimally processed sweet potatoes, bananas, green papayas, and 'ulu – which transitioned from a Harvest of the Month menu item to a regular part of the school lunch cycle in school year 2019-2020. *At its peak pre-pandemic, HIDOE was procuring up to 15,000 pounds of each of these crops from the co-op's farmer network per school year.*

**HUC supports the intent of SB 2891** as stated – “to direct the Department of Education to include food hubs in its procurement strategy for goods and services related to the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program” – **but we suggest a more concrete directive than the one currently proposed,** which directs the Department of Education(DOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm-to-School Program.

As stated above, it is important to recognize that the HIDOE has already successfully contracted with local food hubs to provide fresh, nutritious foods for student meals prior to COVID-19 disruptions. Unfortunately, the HIDOE has since decided to pull back on this collaboration and changed course. We recommend that this committee urge the DOE to re-establish food hub contracts, such as the one with HUC, as part of its overall approach to



**Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative**

79-1017 E Honalo Rd, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740 | 808-238-8869 | [eatbreadfruit.com](http://eatbreadfruit.com) | [info@eatbreadfruit.com](mailto:info@eatbreadfruit.com)

meeting Act 175 (2021) and Act 176 (2021) goals. We do not believe that a formal study is needed to return to pre-pandemic levels of engagement with local farmers and food hubs.

If HIDOE requires additional support to resume local purchasing from food hubs, we suggest an approach such as the one ratified via [S.C.R. NO. 38 S.D.1](#), which was adopted by the Senate in 2020 and stated: “that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is requested to establish a multi-stakeholder task force to advance state procurement of locally produced food with key partners, including the State Procurement Office, Department of Education’s ‘Āina Pono, food hub operators and family and small-scale farmers, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and distributors and groups that advocate for family and small-scale farmers.” Such a task force would provide the platform and means for HIDOE to re-engage with food hubs and other stakeholders to develop an action plan that works for all parties and achieves collective goals in as expedient and direct a manner as possible.

*HUC supports the HIDOE’s efforts to increase local food sourcing across the State, and has helped to demonstrate that food hubs provide a unique and valuable opportunity for the HIDOE to purchase from small farmers through an aggregated supply chain.*

We therefore support the passing of SB 2891 with the amendments detailed herein.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information

Respectfully Submitted,



General Manager



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:22:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sam Kakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

As HIDOE leadership forges ahead with plans to design innovation kitchens, some of us on the ground level are already approaching agriculture producers, principals and Complex Area Superintendents to consider pilot programs that incorporate food hubs as part of local food systems. Given the support, these hubs can provide a reliable stream of fresh, safe and nutritious food for our keiki and adults in schools. Once the centralized kitchens are operational, products from the respective hubs can be consolidated, processed and transported on a larger scale.

Mahalo

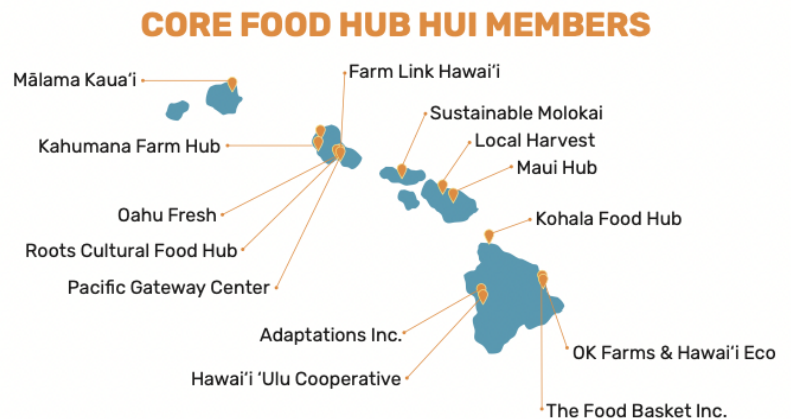
Aloha Mai Kakou, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Education Committee Members,

The Hawaii Food Hub Hui is writing to offer comments on SB2891, we **supports the intent of SB 2891** as stated – “to direct the Department of Education to include food hubs in its procurement strategy for goods and services related to the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program” – **but we suggest a more concrete directive than the one currently proposed**, which directs the Department of Education(DOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the ‘Aina Pono Hawai’i State Farm-to- School Program.

Since early 2017, representatives of Hawaii’s food hubs have been convening with myself as the facilitator, Dr. Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, then via the Hawaii Farmers’ Union United, to discuss shared needs and explore collaborations. The group, which became the Hawaii Food Hub Hui, initially consisted of a collaboration among five of the major food hub leaders in Hawaii and now represents fourteen of Hawaii’s food hubs focused on aggregation and distribution of produce and other locally- grown foods. In 2021, Hawaii’s 14 food hubs generated an annual revenue of approximately \$15million of which over 60% was paid directly to 1,050+ small and medium size farms and approximately 6,000 customers per week.

In 2021, the [Hawaii Good Food Alliance](#) and the Hawaii Food Hub Hui received an award of \$1 million for Statewide [expansion](#) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Food Systems Partnership.

In 2021, [Hawaii Farmers Union United](#) voted in the following policy to support food hubs: 1) the establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force under the Lieutenant Governor's office to advance institutional food procurement with key partners including food hubs, Aina Pono, food hub operators and family farmers, state procurement offices, distributors, and producer groups.



The Hawaii Food Hub Hui offers the following comments to bill SB2891:

- We stand behind the purpose of this bill as stated: “to direct the department of education to include food hubs in its procurement strategy for goods and services related to the aina pono Hawaii state farm to school program.”
- We suggest that [S.C.R. NO. 38 S.D.1](#) adopted in 2020 offers a preferred arrangement with a similar end of including food hubs in farm-to-state procurement strategies but in a more inclusionary manner with multiple stakeholders present. The resolution stated that “that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is requested to establish a multi-stakeholder task force to advance the state procurement of locally produced food with key partners, including the State Procurement Office, Department of Education's ‘Aina Pono, food hub operators and family and small-scale farmers, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and distributors and groups that advocate for family and small-scale farmers.”
- We support the passing of SB2891 with the amendments of including the multi-stakeholder taskforce from S.C.R. NO. 38 S.D. 1 adopted in 2020

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information at [azizi.saleh@gmail.com](mailto:azizi.saleh@gmail.com).

Me ke Aloha

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, Ph.D.  
Facilitator, Hawaii Food Hub Hui

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 12:53:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Getting Things Started supports SB2891 to #fixourfoodsystem.

Food Hubs have been a crucial part of our food system especially since the pandemic. Food Hubs have an important role in farm to school and can support the Department of Education's efforts to enact Act 175.

Mahalo nui loa.

Koh Ming Wei, PhD

Executive Director/Ecoliteracy Educator

mingwei@c4gts.org

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 1:27:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2891 which will provide for the inclusion of Food Hubs in the 'Aina Pono Hawai'i State Farm to School Program.

Mahalo Nui,

Marian Huff

Member Emeritus, Hawaii State Farm to School Hui



**Officers**

Vincent Mina  
State President  
HFUU

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President  
HFUU

Maureen Datta  
Secretary  
HFUU

Reba Lopez  
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**Chapter Presidents**

Dash Kuhr  
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Steve Lund  
Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
K'au, Hawaii

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Robert Boudreaux  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Bobby Pahia  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Mau

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, Oahu

Christian  
Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, Oahu

Vincent Kimura  
Waimanalo, Oahu

Anabella Bruch  
Kauai

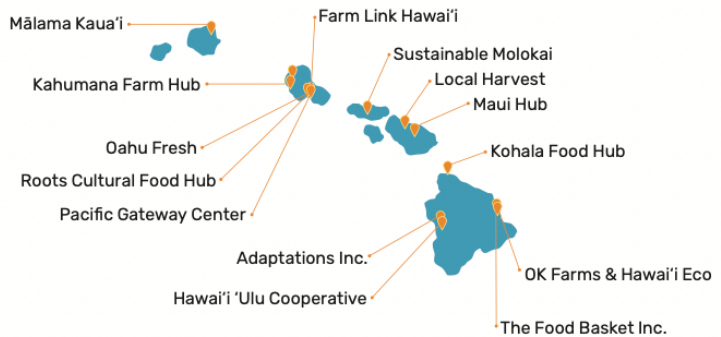


Aloha Mai Kakou, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Education Committee Members,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United is writing to offer comments on SB2891. We support the intent of SB 2891 as stated – “to direct the Department of Education to include food hubs in its procurement strategy for goods and services related to the Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program” – but we suggest a more concrete directive than the one currently proposed, which directs the Department of Education(DOE) to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the ‘Aina Pono Hawai‘i State Farm-to- School Program.

The Hawai‘i Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian islands. Since 2016, HFUU adopted a strategic initiative of to support the development of food hub network across the islands. In 2017, representatives of Hawaii’s food hubs have been convening facilitated by the Hawaii Farmers’ Union United, to discuss shared needs and explore collaborations. The group, which became the Hawaii Food Hub Hui, initially consisted of a collaboration among five of the major food hub leaders in Hawaii and now represents fourteen of Hawaii’s food hubs focused on aggregation and distribution of produce and other locally- grown foods. In 2021, Hawaii’s 14 food hubs generated an annual revenue of approximately \$15million of which over 60% was paid directly to 1,050+ small and medium size farms and approximately 6,000 customers per week. In 2021, [Hawaii Farmers Union United](#) voted in the following policy to support food hubs: 1) the establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force under the Lieutenant Governor's office to advance institutional food procurement with key partners including food hubs, Aina Pono, food hub operators and family farmers, state procurement offices, distributors, and producer groups.

**CORE FOOD HUB HUI MEMBERS**



The Hawaii Farmers Union United offers the following comments to bill SB2891:

- We stand behind the purpose of this bill as stated: “to direct the department of education to include food hubs in its procurement strategy for goods and services related to the aina pono Hawaii state farm to school program.”
- We suggest that [S.C.R. NO. 38 S.D.1](#) adopted in 2020 offers a preferred arrangement with a similar end of including food hubs in farm-to-state procurement strategies but in a more inclusionary manner with multiple stakeholders present. The resolution stated that “that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor is requested to establish a multi-stakeholder task force to advance the state procurement of locally produced food with key partners, including the State Procurement Office, Department of Education's ‘Āina Pono, food hub operators and family and small-scale farmers, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and distributors and groups that advocate for family and small-scale farmers.”
- We support the passing of SB2891 with the amendments of including the multi-stakeholder taskforce from S.C.R. NO. 38 S.D. 1 adopted in 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

**Vincent Mina President HFUU/HFUF**



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 10:08:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Debbie Millikan	Testifying for Oahu Farm to School Network	Support	No

Comments:

**I am writing in SUPPORT of SB891 which directs the Department of Education to conduct a study for the inclusion of food hubs in the ‘Aina Pono Hawaii State Farm to School Program. It is clear that Hawai‘i’ needs to increase local food production and the state’s farm to school program is one way of increasing local food in public school food. The proposed study is essential to the further success and long term stability of farm to school by considering the integration of food hubs which in term support small and medium size farms in aggregation and distribution while also addressing the scale of local food for school meals. The O‘ahu Farm to School Network supports the proposal to conduct this study and begin to address both the livelihood of Hawai‘i’s small farmers and the nutritional needs of our keiki.**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:05:03 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All public school students deserve to eat the freshest and safest produce/fruits grown in Hawaii preferred organically grown. Included seafoods and poultry.

Question: Will the cost be partially absorbed by the federal school meal programs?

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in SUPPORT.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:40:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2022 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for allowing me to submit supportive testimony on SB2891. Food hubs across Hawai'i are supporting our small farmers across the state. Including them in DOE local procurement opportunities and other components of the 'Āina Pono Farm to School program are crucial to have more local foods in our school lunches. Our keiki need to be reintroduced to all of the many foods grown in Hawai'i, and it starts at our schools. Please support this bill!