

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023**  
**9:30 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 250, HD1**  
**RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT**

Chairperson Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 250, HD1. The bill facilitates the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers and will allow school complexes to regionalize their menus. The Department supports this bill and offers comments.

The 2008 Farm Bill allowed child nutrition program operators to use a geographic preference when procuring locally grown and locally raised unprocessed agricultural products. The Department comments that HB 250 aligns with our call-to-action "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign that leads to farmers, ranchers and producers scaling up to meet the demand this bill intends to create. The 2008 Farm Bill also provides that the schools define what is local for schools using a geographic preference when sourcing food for the federal child nutrition program.

As such, the Department defers further comment to the Department of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/14/2023

**Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Labor & Government  
Operations

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0250, HD1 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL  
PROCUREMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 250, HD1.

The Department's school meal program currently awards its fresh produce and frozen protein bid solicitations by geographic areas in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program and state procurement laws.

The Department understands and supports that the geographic diversity of Hawaii's islands presents unique opportunities to regionalize food preparation. However, the Department would like to point out that agricultural production, quality, certifications, and distribution are critical to satisfying the Department's capacity and standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**Testimony to the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0250, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 250, House Draft 1, RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

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

This measure, as received by your Committee, would require the Department of Education (DOE) to adopt rules for the procurement of goods and services related to food programs at public schools that incorporate geographical preference for unprocessed, locally grown and locally raised agricultural products. The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

Because the State purchases so much food for the daily operations of public schools, it is prudent and essential for government to spend its limited resources within the State to ensure that these funds are circulated through local businesses and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a bill like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to respond to unforeseen economic downturns. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic or catastrophe 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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



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Waialua, HI 96791-9501  
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[www.NSEVP.org](http://www.NSEVP.org)

**February 11, 2023**

House Committee on LABOR & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
*Thursday February 14, 2023, 9:30 a.m.*

SUBJECT: Comments on HB 250– RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (North Shore EVP), I would like to extend support for HB 250, which will facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers and allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

Since 2016, North Shore EVP has been working to prepare farmers to fully and equitably participate in Hawaii's commercial and institutional markets by providing food safety training and certification through our USDA GroupGAP program. Although the Department of Education (DOE) currently does not have procurement guidelines for locally sourced produce, food safety certification should be a qualifying criterion for any farm selling products to our schools. Currently less than 2% of Hawaii's farms have obtained food safety certification and in some regions of the state the DOE would be hard pressed to identify growers that could provide the quantity and consistency of products needed to fulfill the geographic preferences identified in this bill.

We support the intent of this bill but ask that the procurement policies and procedures created under this bill provide adequate time for farms to acquire the necessary food safety certification that may be required for them to participate in the farm to school program

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President



**House Committee on Labor & Government Operations**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB250 HD1**

Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB250 HD1, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services at public schools that incorporate a preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food.

Supporting locally sourced food benefits the local economy, helps us become less dependent on tourism and more resilient and secure as an island chain. Growing, processing, and distributing food locally creates and sustains community-based jobs. Direct marketing channels between farmers and consumers boosts local farmers' incomes.

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.

Local food has a shorter time between harvest and your table, and it is less likely that the nutrient value has decreased. Food imported from far-away states and countries is often older, has traveled and sits in distribution centers before it gets to your store. This is exacerbated in places like Hawai'i, where our food is treated and shipped such long distances.

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

Most importantly, HB250 HD1 allows kids a more direct connection to their food system, enhancing their community pride and connection to place and identity.

Please support HB250 HD1 and prioritize quality local food in schools.

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

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:18:39 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will enable our communities to make progress towards Act 175, which requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030. Local farmers and food hubs need procurement rules in order to produce and deliver adequate harvests to fulfill this goal. If we can start making small progress every year, we can still reach this goal!

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:22:35 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Member of the LGO Committee,

The Farm to School Program Bill was passed in 2015, and 7 years later, there is not a clear pathway to help our farmers sell to the DOE or students to receive more locally grown good in their daily meal service. Please use this Legislative Session to work with the DOE, find out what it's true challenges are and then work together for the benefit of all passing a bill that will work for them. Childhood obesity is very much on the rise and has been for the past 20 years BUT we can make a difference for every child's future by creating first the strategy and the plan to implement the Hawaii Farm to School Program in DOE. Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather

1. Geographic preferences support local farmers! This bill supports local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai'i.
2. Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030. Local farmers and distributors need procurement rules in order to produce and deliver adequate harvests to fulfill this goal.
3. Eating unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products has a positive impact on the health of school children and youth.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
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February 14, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 250, HD1**  
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 250, HD1**, which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

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

In 2009, the State enacted ACT 175 which gave Hawai'i agricultural products a price preference and included Hawai'i agricultural products under the State's procurement code. HFB believed that agricultural producers' price preference for bidding presented a competitive advantage. This included enjoyment of the small business preference rule that permits an agency to identify certain contracts for competition among small businesses or requires a large business to subcontract with small businesses to provide the products. We believed that the preference helped cultivate a level playing field with out-of-state bidders and created additional market opportunities for Hawai'i's farmers and small businesses.

HFB suggested the changes because farmers and ranchers were having a difficult time entering into state supply contracts. During our involvement with this process, it became clear that education at all levels, not just within our group of farmers and ranchers, but even within the procurement office, was needed. Although HFB attempted to move everyone in this direction, the training was never accomplished.

In previous sessions, there have been measures proposed to remove the preference and ease the process required for governmental bodies to acquire local agricultural commodities by exempting Hawai'i agricultural producers from the procurement code. This would change the current code back to where it was before HFB's requests to the Legislature modified the language, resulting in the current code. When bills were introduced that would revert to exempting locally-grown agricultural products from the procurement code, HFB requested clear metrics to help determine the success of the procurement code with the exemption.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm-to-school programs. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible. Providing to the entire school system is not. The focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawai'i. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should also be a priority.

The proposed geographic preference will provide the flexibility that should help increase the purchase of more locally-grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, and poultry products for our Farm to School program.

HFB is committed to working with the department of education to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawai'i farmers and ranchers to source more products for Hawai'i's Farm to School program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



To: The House Committee on Labor & Government Operations (LGO)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:30 am

**In strong support of HB250 HD1**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the LGO Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii **strongly support HB250 HD1** which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Efforts to increase local food procurement promotes good health for students and our local economy, as well as improving the health of our planet. These efforts avoid the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools. It also stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture.

Facilitating the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate! HB250 HD1 is a meaningful step forward in these efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:30:11 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ming Wei Koh	Center for Getting Things Started	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

We fully support HB250 for the following reasons.

1. Geographic preferences support local farmers! This bill supports local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai‘i.
2. Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030. Local farmers and distributors need procurement rules in order to produce and deliver adequate harvests to fulfill this goal.
3. Eating unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products has a positive impact on the health of school children and youth.

Koh Ming Wei PhD.

Executive Director, Center for Getting Things Started

12-7106 Puna Kai St.

Pahoa HI 96778

mingwei@c4gts.org



## HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

Titimahea Ta'ase, JD  
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public  
Defender

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 13, 2023

To: Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for HB 250 Relating to Farm to School  
Procurement

Hrg: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 9:30 AM, Conf Rm 309

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) works to advance policy and systems change to reduce disparities and improve the health of Hawai'i residents. HIPHI is home to and testifies here on behalf of the Obesity Prevention Task Force<sup>i</sup> and The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui,<sup>ii</sup> which collectively represent over 60 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide STRONG SUPPORT for HB 250, which requires the Department of Education (HIDOE) to establish rules to ensure local procurement of goods and services related to food service. This bill will allow public schools to have a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and raised food products.

Additionally, this bill creates transparency by requiring the HIDOE to post all of the contracts rewarded for local food procurement on its website. This requirement is critical to illustrate the progress the HIDOE has made in reaching the goals outlined in Act 175. Increasing access of locally grown and raised foods for consumption by our keiki will positively impact their health while also supporting the development of Hawai'i sustainable food systems.

### Geographic preferences support local farmers.

This bill will regionalize school meals, which will also support local food producers and suppliers on each island. Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030, currently local procurement is at 6.2%.<sup>iii</sup> This measure helps to support reaching that 30% goal.

HIDOE cannot reach the 30% goal alone. This project needs to have statewide collaboration to achieve success. Farmers and distributors need local procurement rules to produce adequate harvests in order to deliver

the appropriate volume of locally sourced foods to serve the 100,000 plus meals that the HIDOE serves daily.

Mahalo for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB250.

Mahalo,



Dennis Chase  
Hawai'i Farm to School Hui Program Manager  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the **Obesity Prevention Task Force** is composed of over 40 statewide organizations, and it works to make recommendations to reshape Hawaii's school, work, community, and healthcare environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.

<sup>iii</sup> [https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/DOE\\_REPORT2023\\_FarmtoSchoolMeals.pdf](https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/DOE_REPORT2023_FarmtoSchoolMeals.pdf)



in your neighborhood

PO Box 1902, Wailuku, HI 96793

(808)215-9228

[www.GrowSomeGood.org](http://www.GrowSomeGood.org)

**Testimony to the Committee on Labor & Government Operations**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:30 am**

**Conference Room 309 & Videoconference**

**HB 250, HD1 Relating to Farm-to-School Procurement**

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Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Takuya Garrett, and members of the Committee on Labor & Government Operations

We are in **strong support** of HB 250, HD1, which would fully implement the farm-to-school program and farm-to-school meals program by the 2024-2025 school year.

As the Executive Director, I represent Grow Some Good, a 501(c)(3) organization based on Maui. Our Farm to School Program introduces students to and teaches them about Maui County's unique foodsheds while integrating agriculture, natural resources, and science learning into their existing curriculum at every grade level, from PreK-12. We aim to thread project-based learning, STEAM, and entrepreneurship skills into braided learning pathways that connect preschool, elementary, and intermediate-level garden programs to existing secondary education agricultural programs and workforce opportunities. This strengthened, interdisciplinary connection will ultimately lead to increased student interest in college and career pathways in various agricultural sectors while improving the overall health and well-being of the participants.

In addition to helping establish food gardens and living science labs in local schools through our Farm to School Program, GSG has recently launched a new Community Food Systems Program, *Nā Māla Kaiāulu*. This program was created to align with our mission by building sustainable, long-term community food gardens, programs, and systems that connect, serve, and feed underprivileged communities across Maui.

We support the passage of this bill as it would:

1. Support local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai'i.
2. Source Farm to School meals at the Complex Area level, thereby enabling greater flexibility in procurement, which removes barriers for the complex areas to procure locally sourced food by island.
3. Create decentralized systems that support cafeteria managers at rural schools by increasing the ways that they can ensure a reliable source of fresh food, and increase the nutritional value of school meals.
4. Support achieving the goal of serving 30% locally procured foods by 2030 as required in Act 175 (2021).

*Grow Some Good is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.*



5. Help improve the health of our keiki by providing more unprocessed, locally grown, and locally raised food products.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lacasse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "L".

Scott Lacasse  
Executive Director





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Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the House Labor & Government Operations Committee,

The Hawaii 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. **HFUU supports HB250.**

HFUU strongly supports HB250. Our state is home to a rich and diverse agricultural industry, but too often our local products are overlooked in favor of cheaper, imported options. By requiring the Department of Education to establish rules for procuring locally grown and raised food products, we can help ensure that our schools are supporting the local economy and providing students with the freshest and healthiest food possible.

Additionally, incorporating a geographic preference for local food products will provide valuable educational opportunities for students. They will learn about the importance of supporting local farmers and the connection between the food they eat and the land it comes from. By supporting this bill, we can help build a stronger and more sustainable food system in Hawaii, while also promoting education and health for our children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 — 9:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 250 HD1, Relating to Farm to School Procurement.**

Dear Chair Matayoshi 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 options, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports HB 250 HD1**, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Ulupono supports the State's farm-to-institution efforts, including the DOE's Farm to School Program, which has the potential to leverage the department's significant buying power to become one of the state's largest purchasers of local food (perhaps one day the largest) while also shaping the tastes, attitudes and eating habits of Hawai'i's keiki for healthy outcomes. The State has committed to local food procurement goals through 2050 (including the DOE's own statutorily required goal of 30% local by 2030), it is important to provide opportunities for local producers to participate in institutional purchasing. By creating a geographic preference, schools across the state will be able to procure fresh products from local, regional farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs



February 13, 2023

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor & Government Relations  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
9:30 am  
via Video Conference

RE: HB250 HD1 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT (**Strong Support**)

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten & Committee Members,

Chamber of Sustainable Commerce offers this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB250 HD1, relating to farm to school procurement. As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing HB250 HD1, which would require the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. This bill would economically uplift our local farmers, nutritionally benefit our students and replenish our state budget.

Using state funds to purchase locally grown foods supports local taxpayers; it is an investment in a circular economy that will have exponential returns. Whereas, procuring foods from out of state, sends all the economic benefits out of our local economy. The financial gains Hawaii reaps as it shifts to local farm-to-school purchasing should be fully recognized and credited during any state procurement calculation and deliberation.

We ask this committee to amend the counter-effective date of July 1, 3000, inserted by the previous committee; return the original HB250 effective date of July 1, 2023.

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:13:16 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will help to make lasting system changes to support local farmers which means better access to locally grown food and lowering our carbon footprint and supporting Hawaii economy.

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:02:32 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill, as it can help to support local farmers while providing nutrition to students. One change I would make would be to include aquacultural/fisheries products as well as agricultural, as well as to potentially include processed products (baked goods and the like) as well.

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:59:34 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I support HB250, HD1.

Mahalo for your time and committment to our community,

Lisa DeSantis, Waimea, Hawai‘i Island

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 10:58:43 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support HB250 which requires the DOE to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed, locally grown and locally raised food products.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:50:45 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

Keith Neal

Waimea



**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:51:14 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Please support this effort to regionalize our farm to school initiative while bringing fresh and healthy locally raised food to our keiki.

Local food procurement provides economic benefits to local food systems by providing a long-term revenue stream for farmers and other food producers, promoting market diversification, and increasing income and economic growth opportunities for individual farmers.

This bill will help to facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawai'i farmers, ranchers, and food producers and allow school complexes to regionalize their menus.

**Please support HB250.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

**HB-250-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 12:01:35 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily Sarasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of H.B. 250. I am a young adult living in Hawai'i and a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. This bill is a major step forward for our children, environment, and local economy.

I grew up eating frozen pizzas in my school cafeterias. Children deserve access to healthy and fresh options in their school lunches. We should not nourish them with food that is frozen, packaged in plastic, and shipped thousands of miles from the mainland. Our local farmers will also benefit from this bill because increased business allows them to scale their operations and better compete with the pricing of major retailers. These major food suppliers benefit from economies of scale and externalize the harmful environmental costs of their shipping and packaging disposal. Our community bears those costs. The legislature has an opportunity here to adopt a policy supporting local food production that benefits our state's children, consumers, and farmers.

I respectfully request that the Committee supports this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Emily Sarasa

esarasa@Hawaii.edu