



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

Date: 02/15/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2083, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plantbased meals as an option under the school meals program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on HB 2083, HD1.

The Department appreciates this bill's intent to support the thirty percent by 2030 local food purchases goal, and its advocacy for the health benefits of a plant-based diet. However, the Department wishes to point out that each school is not responsible nor equipped to create its own set of guidelines for the menu planning of its own plant-based menu option that must meet State and Federal Child Nutrition requirements for reimbursable meals.

In addition, the Department's School Food Services Branch (SFSB) finds that Hawaii farms and vendors are not prepared to provide local plant-based meats/meat alternatives for meals at 257 schools statewide at this time. The SFSB's assessment of the capacity of local vendors, through its 2023 Request for Information campaign, found that Hawaii's agriculture and food manufacturing industry does not yet have large-scale vendors producing sufficient plant-based proteins, made from local ingredients. The

unintended consequence of this measure may compel the Department to purchase plant-based manufactured products from the mainland to meet this bill's mandate and therefore, reduce the demand for other animal proteins that we are currently purchasing to meet the thirty percent by 2030 local food purchases goal.

The SFSB is in support of increasing plant-based options on the menu and to also increasing local purchases. SFSB realizes progress will need to be gradual and timely to allow farmers and local producers to scale up their production to meet our needs. To meet the Federal Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs, the SFSB needs to serve a set amount of meat/meat alternative equivalents on a daily and weekly basis. Currently, the majority of plant-based meat/meat alternatives that would make up a plant-based entree are processed and do not meet the local criteria for agricultural foods or value-added products. Examples of plant-based meat/meat alternatives are soy-based proteins like tofu and other legumes.

The SFSB is also required to offer cow's milk with each meal under Federal Guidelines. The only time a non-dairy plant-based milk alternative can be offered to a student is if a Recognized Medical Authority or parent/guardian signs off on a form that identifies the need that restricts their diet. In addition, the non-dairy plant-based milk alternative will need to meet the federal nutrition requirements. At this time, there are no locally made plant-based milk alternatives that would meet these nutrition requirements.

The Department has and will continue to work towards increasing plant-based meal entree options within the federal guidelines while prioritizing local food purchases in support of Act 175.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2083
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2083. Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education (DOE) to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program. The Department supports the intent and offers comments.

Hawaii Department of Agriculture continues its commitment to support the DOE in achieving its goals of reaching 30% local by 2030. This includes plant-based options that are made from food grown and manufactured in Hawaii. Through market development and innovative programs which is delineated in this bill, Hawaii farmers can reach generational profitability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HB2083 HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
House Committee on Education

February 15, 2024

2:00 pm

Conference Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2083 HD1, which seeks to enhance the health and well-being of Hawai‘i's students by promoting locally sourced, nutritious, and environmentally conscious school meals. **OHA recognizes this legislation to be pivotal for the future of our youth and the sustainability of our local food systems.**

OHA believes that this measure provides the opportunity for the Department of Education to improve the quality of school meals while supporting local agricultural producers. Hawai‘i’s food system is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, viral pandemics, and military conflicts. According to research, Hawai‘i imports over 90% of its food¹, while also only having the sustained capacity to feed our population of 1.4 million for a week if imported supply chains are disrupted.² OHA recognizes that the foresight in establishing a target goal of 30% for locally sourced products in school meals, as initiated by Act 175, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2021, is commendable. Hawai‘i’s food system statistics underscore the importance of this goal. Currently, the average meat and dairy products served in schools often contain processed elements and additives, impacting the health outcomes of our students negatively. HB2083 suggests that schools can both improve meals while being an important part of local agriculture’s future.

Additionally, the emphasis on introducing plant-based options in high school meals aligns with contemporary research demonstrating the copious amount of health benefits associated with a plant-based diet. Beyond health considerations, offering vegetarian meals fosters increased demand for local greens, thereby supporting our local farmers and

¹ HNL Port Flood Vulnerability Assessment: Sea Level Rise and Food System Infrastructure Impacts 2050, 2070 (1m, 1.5m SLR by 2100).

² Hawai‘i Public Radio by Mark Ladao, Catherine Cluett Pactol, and Sophia McCullough, “State Working Group Calls for Improvements to Food Reserves and Disaster Response,” Hawai‘i Public Radio, November 10, 2023, <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2023-11-09/state-working-group-calls-for-improvements-to-food-reserves-and-disaster-response>.



HB2083 HD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
House Committee on Education

cultivating a culture of environmental awareness among our youth. OHA appreciates the added definition of “plant-based” to ensure clarity for the Department.

OHA further understands and appreciates the concerns the Department raised previously on the time needed to implement effectively. Our hope is that the permissive nature of both the farm-to-school meals and plant-based options will give the Department the flexibility it needs to gradually implement and scale up. We also would like to recognize the added funding and staffing that the Department may need to actualize these goals. We defer to the Department on costs and staffing needs and support additional funding and positions to ensure effective implementation.

This legislation represents a crucial investment in the future of Hawai‘i, and we are confident that its enactment will contribute significantly to the overall well-being of our community. By supporting HB2083 HD1, we are taking proactive steps to prioritize the health and well-being of our community members, foster sustainable agricultural practices, and instill values of environmental stewardship among our youth.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB2083 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 13, 2024

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 2083, HD 1, RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 15, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2083, HD 1, Relating to School Meals. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 2083, HD 1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2083, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:slr



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 15, 2024

To: House Committee on Education
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Hon. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2083 HD 1 relating to SCHOOL MEALS.

Hearing: Thursday, February 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Room 309 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee on Education:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, which has over 7,500 active members statewide, strongly supports HB 2083 HD 1.

HB 2083 HD 1 authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. The bill further requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program. The effective date is on 7/1/3000. (HD1)

A plan for schools to achieve the local Farm to School meal goal of having 30% of their food local-sourced by 2030 has several significant benefits such as providing healthier options. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, and other produce are often harvested at their peak ripeness, retaining essential vitamins and minerals. In addition, embracing locally sourced ingredients supports Hawai'i's farmers and agricultural stakeholders. These partnerships strengthen the local economy and contribute to food security by reducing dependence on external sources. Further, by incorporating local ingredients, schools can honor traditional Hawaiian foods and culinary practices and sourcing food locally reduces transportation-related emissions and minimizes the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food distribution. It contributes to a more sustainable and eco-friendly food system.

Furthermore, exposure to fresh, local produce encourages students to adopt healthier eating habits and requiring public high schools to offer plant-based meals as an option serves several purposes such as special dietary requirements as some students prefer or require plant-based diets due to health, ethical, or cultural reasons. Having plant-based options ensures that no student feels excluded based on their dietary choices or restrictions.

Introducing plant-based meals allows students to learn about alternative protein sources, environmental sustainability, and the impact of food choices. Supporting local farmers and diversifying meal options contributes to Hawai'i's food security. By incorporating plant-based meals, schools can reduce reliance on imported animal products and prioritize locally grown alternatives.

By nurturing a connection between schools, local agriculture, and healthy eating, Hawai'i can create a more resilient and vibrant food system for its students and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Please pass this measure.

Melodie Aduja

legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick

burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



To: The House Committee on Education (EDN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2024, 2pm

In strong support of HB2083 HD1

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the EDN Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports HB2083 HD1**. This measure authorizes the DOE to establish a program to incentivize schools to submit a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. This is needed as progress in Hawaii's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals has fallen behind. Submitting a plan will help ensure that this very important goal is met.

This measure also requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program. Plant-based meals provide a healthy, tasty, climate-friendly option our keiki can enjoy.

HB2083 HD1 is both a wonderful and common-sense idea that supports our farmers and at the same time helps our keiki by providing local, fresh, healthy options. We know that by promoting healthy lifestyle choices and providing access to meals that contain less processed food, and more fruits and vegetables, we can help keiki reduce their risk for developing chronic diseases and improve their overall health.

Efforts to support our farmers also builds our resiliency and avoids the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools. In addition, it stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture. These efforts and more are the type of actions needed to move Hawaii to a decarbonized economy. Truly this is a win:win proposition.

The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now. As an island state, Hawaii is ground zero for climate devastation, from more intense storms, to food insecurity, to rising seas and shoreline destruction. And let's be clear. Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future. Climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose. Children living today have already gotten a glimpse of the devastation a 1.5°C warmer world will mean because of the failure of adults to take real action when there still was

time to do so. Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change.

If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require all of us working together. We all need to be part of the solution. Importantly, HB2083 HD1 offers an opportunity to empower our keiki by giving them the opportunity to make sustainable food choices that will help mitigate climate breakdown. Bottom line, HB2083 HD1 will support our local farmers, offer healthy options for our keiki, while also supporting the health of our climate.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:06:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah	Mililani High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Rebekah and I am a 11th grader (or Freshman, Sophomore, etc.) at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083.

In our AP environmental class, we have learned of the process in which our school receives school lunches. As a student, it would bring me more assurance to know that the food I am eating is fresh and good for my body, rather than frozen with preservatives and shipped from the mainland. I personally do not follow a plant-based only diet, but understand why including more plant-based options will help the health of our students. Creating an incentive program to speed up this farm to school meal goal will help schools feel more enthusiastic about feeding its students healthy meals that not only support local businesses but also lessens the amount of food shipped to Hawaii.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it will encourage schools to start taking action in order to reach the goal of making 30% of our school lunches locally produced. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Okimoto

Mililani High School



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

SB2083
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Woodson Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments on SB2083** which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. It also requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program.

This bill states that "a reduction in meat consumption can be beneficial not only to the environment but to the health of Hawaii's students." In fact, Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. These nutrients are especially important for the development of young, active growing children. In a comparison between adolescents who consumed beef and those who did not, the group that consumed beef scored higher for nutrients including iron, niacin, phosphorous, riboflavin, thiamin, vitamin B12, vitamin B6, and zinc. Ranchers are also stewards of the land and are key in removing invasive species, reducing fire fuel loads, and increasing carbon sequestration through rotational grazing. **We believe that a variety of diets can exist and that plant-based meals can be offered without the disparaging language towards cattle and beef.**

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.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.



Additional resources:

Maintaining the Many Societal Benefits of Rangelands: The Case of Hawaii

<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/10/7/764>

The Role of Beef in Closing Nutrient Gaps: Addressing the Adolescent Nutrition Public Health Concern

https://www.beefresearch.org/Media/BeefResearch/Docs/role-of-beef-in-adolescent-nutrition_research-brief-arms010424-10.pdf

Nicole Galase

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Managing Director



LATE

House Committee on Education

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2083 HD1

Thursday, February 15, 2023 2:00p.m. Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB2083 HD1 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty percent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program.

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Sadly, progress in Hawai'i's goals of sourcing 30% locally grown/produced food in school meals by 2023 has lagged. This bill seeks to incentivize schools to take action to meet the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Leveraging the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii's farmers and producers is one critical way Hawai'i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports.

Additionally, 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. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

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.

It is critical to our sustainability and survival as an island chain to increase our local food production and agricultural sector and support regenerative agriculture and local production. The expansion of agriculture will allow us to broaden our economic streams and make us less reliant on tourism.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB2083 HD1.

Please support HB2083 HD1.

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



LATE

HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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

Carissa Holley, MEd
Treasurer
Hale Makua Health Services

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Debbie Erskine
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Health Partners

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

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/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support for HB 2083 Relating to School Meals

Hrg: Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM, Conf Rm 309

Hawai'i Public Health Institute 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 Hawai'i Farm to School Hui, which collectively represents over 40 organizations from across the islands.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide **Strong Support** for **HB2083**, which would incentivize individual schools to submit a plan to the Department of Education (HIDOE) for that school to reach the goal of 30% locally sourced products by 2030. This bill would also require public high schools to provide a plant-based option as part of the school meals program.

The bill gives principals and cafeteria managers at individual schools more control over their vendor choices. This step toward decentralization could benefit rural schools, which may be able to find a locally based farm with the capacity to meet schools' need for specific products. Molokai High School, for example, could source a few thousand pounds of carrots per year from farmers on their island instead of shipping carrots from another island.

The second aspect of this bill that requires offering a plant-based meal option is more challenging to achieve. School meals require five components to be offered on the plate: Milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat/meat alternates. If these components are not "on the plate" the meal is not eligible for reimbursement. This bill requires meat alternatives to be offered. Locally grown alternatives such as ulu and kalo are only an allowable substitute for grains. Meat alternative products will have to be approved by the USDA. This process will be cumbersome and lengthy, and should be considered when setting a date for this requirement to become effective.

Mahalo for considering this measure and for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2083.

Mahalo,


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

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 325
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,
My name is Miki'ala Cabasug and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083.

In Mililani High School I am currently enrolled in a class called AP Environmental Science. In this class we have been learning about how the way we eat can affect the environment and can actually contribute to Global Warming. The effects of how we treat the animals that we consume is really concerning because of the gases it lets out into our atmosphere as well as the amount of resources it takes to actually get the meat from the slaughterhouses to our cafeteria tables is frightening and we should all open an eye to the issue. This bill may also help address the obesity issue in our country as well considering we are one of the top nations that suffer with obesity and overweight problems.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because this not only effects us now but will effect many more generations to come. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Miki'ala Cabasug
Mililani High School

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

H.B. No. 2083

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2024
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

In SUPPORT of HB2083 Relating to School Meals.

I, Bonnie Parker, a teacher at Mililani High School, am submitting the following written testimony on behalf of the students of our Sustainable Foods Systems classes. The following statements are written by my students in support of HB2083 Relating to School Meals:

I, ChauneY Joines, am a supporter of HB2083. In the class of 2024, at Mililani High School. The food served here is less than 2-6% local. This would be important for us to act on by knowing we made what is eaten and waste will come back to us at the end. This would create a great cycle and system for High Schools.

I, Peter Aoki, am a supporter of HB2083. As a student of Mililani High School, I believe having the option to choose healthier, locally sourced meals, and of higher quality will encourage students to choose local

I, Sydnee Nakamura, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student at Mililani High School, I believe that having the opportunity to supplement imported food with local foods for our school lunches will be very beneficial to our health.

I, Carlee Dowsett, am a supporter of HB2083. If we support our local farmers here in Hawai'i, we can be less dependent on other big corporations. I believe that we should be given more healthy and nutritious foods.

I, Ani Briley, am a supporter of HB2083.

Good Morning, My name is Michael, and I am a student representing Mililani High School. I am here to express support regarding HB2083. In my testimony, I will address the incentives on why we should swiftly implement this bill and take more initiative, highlighting reasons why locally grown meals should take top priority into school lunches. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective on this crucial matter.

I, Nicole Lariosa, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student at Mililani High School, I believe that having locally supported foods will make meals in school more nutritious and healthy.

I, Akeliela Wade, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student of Mililani High School, I believe having local and plant based foods added to our meals at school would benefit students greatly by being healthier and more nutritious.

I, Skylar Kaneshiro, am a supporter of HB2083. As a student of Mililani High School, I think that having locally grown food will greatly benefit our school lunches.

I, Kaira Kee, am a supporter of HB2083. As a student of Mililani High School, I think that having locally grown food will greatly benefit our school lunches.

I, Chase Mizoguchi, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student of Mililani High School, I believe that it is best to have locally grown foods used for our school lunches.

I, DAngelo Paulo, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student at Mililani High School, I know having local and plant based foods in our school lunches will benefit the students, and their health and it will give our local farmers more support and recognition.

I, Callie Toguchi-Nebre, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current student at Mililani High School, I believe that having locally produced food will benefit our health and lessen food waste; making lunch more appealing.

I, Azaryah Enos, am a supporter of HB2083. Being a Mililani High School student, I believe that locally grown produce has many benefits in relation to earth and individuals. It would help support our environment sustainability & lower carbon emissions. It also helps support local farmers which could possibly help out with our community economy. Choosing locally grown food would contribute significantly.

I, Jerahmyah Maafala I agree that 30% of my lunch should be locally grown , to better our environment

I, Malia Gilbert, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current Mililani Highschool Student, I believe locally grown food lessens the urge to reach for fast food, resulting in a healthy, nutritious diet.

I, Dasia Flores, am a supporter of HB2083. Being a current MHS student I firmly believe that locally grown and produced food will help our students enjoy lunches better and be excited to eat it.

My name is Champ Aipoalani and I support HB2083.

Jahshua Starkey, I am a supporter of HB2083 as well as a student of Mililani High School. I believe that locally grown foods are very important and will allow Hawaii as a whole to thrive.

I, Kade Smathers, am a supporter of HB2083. Being a current MHS student I firmly believe that locally grown foods are better for the environment and our community.

We believe that HB2083 will help create and support a more viable food system to benefit the people and the land of Hawai'i.

Mālama pono,

Bonnie Parker
bonnie.parker@k12.hi.us

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Tori Lynn Yang and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support** of H.B.No. 2083.

Having previously testified to the House Committee on Agriculture, I am so glad to continue fighting for this bill. With several amendments added to this bill I am here to convince you of why this bill should be passed on. It specifies that this “plant-based meal” will consist of minimally processed foods, and excludes all animal products. This gives students an opportunity to learn and experience what a real plant-based meal is like. With some elective classes here in Mililani like the “Sustainable food sources” class, and this own class the AP Environmental Science class, this can be very educational and eye opening to many students around campus. It can even influence them to bring this type of lifestyle at home to their other family members. Even if most students are not in these classes, they will at least have more awareness in their schools efforts to have more locally sourced food meals. I hope with this testimony as well as my peers' testimony you will consider passing H.B. No. 20832HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tori Lynn Yang
Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:36:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyizel Gutierrez	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Lyizel Gutierrez and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083. Through my time here in Mililani, I was astounded about what this school provides for its students. During such time, I also noticed that there's a definite problem when it comes to our habits with the environment that is not regulated statewide and does not serve the betterment of the school and its students. That is why I am in support of the intentions of the bill currently being reviewed after amendment. This bill has the right idea of what it is trying to do, and I fully back the intent of it. The Department of Education must expose its students to a healthier lifestyle. Kids are in school at least 35+ hours a week, and through all that time, the food provided at lunches can be hit or miss, completely turning students off from eating the lunch they need to keep going throughout the day. Understanding this, I know that this bill can help these students by offering a healthier option to eat instead of going across the high school and getting fast food to satisfy themselves after 7 hours of barely eating.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because not only is it an obligation of the department, it's a chance to do right by the students here in Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lyzel Gutierrez

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Jenny Kuwahara and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD1.**

I am testifying in support of the whole bill but, in particular, the plant-based meal part of the bill. I believe it is necessary to implement this part of the bill for the health of the environment and the youth who depend on school meals. As a teacher, I cannot engage students in topics like global ecological change and the role of our food system and expect them to change their personal habits if the system in which they exist refuses to change. If the only food available to students while on campus is status quo, how can we ask students to think critically, adjust their eating habits, and “be the change they want to see” if the system that is in place to nourish their minds and bodies is not stepping up to the plate. We need government support to help us change the culture of the DOE’s school food system and we need the DOE to be held accountable for these changes and implementation of Act 175 through a reporting process.

Whole food plant-based meals need to be reintroduced to our diets and our schools should be morally obligated to set students up for a healthy future. The long term benefits far outweigh the short-term potential inconvenience some may feel implementing this change will have on the current system.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it is necessary to move our state towards a more sustainable, food secure, and healthy future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Eliana Takara and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the** H.B.No. 2083, which would enforce the policy of requiring at least 30% of public school lunches to be made of locally sourced products by incentivizing schools, and would also require a plant-based option to be provided to all students.

I am in full support of this bill because I believe that it is incredibly important to teach kids from young ages to be environmentally conscious of the food they are eating. As someone with two little sisters who are both just barely starting kindergarten, I want nothing more than to see my little sisters grow up in a public school system with a food system that teaches them the importance and impact that they can have just by the lunches they eat. If we can offer them plant-based options, they will grow up accustomed to a more balanced diet of meals both with and without meat. This way, they and all other children will grow up with awareness of the fact that they can make a difference in our futures, starting with their lunch. Additionally, I would love to see the locally sourced requirement of the bill pass as well, because if we can also offer this coming generation with food that originates from where they come from, children, like my little sisters, will also grow up with a connection to their culture and roots. Not to mention the environmental benefits of reducing the amount of imported foods from the mainland (reduced greenhouse gas emissions!!).

In closing, I sincerely hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it would truly change the lives and perspectives of our next generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

Eliana Takara :)
Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:26:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aether	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Aether Zhang and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying (pick one and keep it bold) in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Your personal testimony here (i.e. reason for the stance, personal story/experience)

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because the changes of sustainability must start now. It is very important to take a step towards positively enforcing environmental sustainability and institutional enthusiasm. We don't have to wait for a change, we can raise and take the lead.

It is the frontier of combating environmental injustice we steadily strive towards. This bill is not only a bill that will raise the interest of students to participate more in the cafeteria process but also offer local small businesses a chance to have a trustworthy place that could support their business.

The food program of every school is creative but daily basic engagements for students to build relationships at a community level. When we elevate the ability of the restaurant it attracts more customers as well as raising community pride.

It is the opportunity to modify and advance the method of the institutional cafeteria system. Allowing students who are picky but hungry to have a chance to not always stay starving in school. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Aether Zhang

Mililani High School

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 325
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,
My name is Kristin McNeal and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083.

When I was in 4th and 5th grade at Daniel K. Inouye Elementary, I would never get school lunch because it would make me feel gross or sick, and ask to go home. To this day, I only ever pack my lunch because I'm worried that whatever food is being served will end up making me feel bad. I believe that by implementing a plant based option into school lunches there would be a decrease in the amount of kids missing class due to illnesses. There are many benefits to eating a plant based diet, not just on the environment but also on individuals health. In my own home, we strive to eat as healthy as possible, so I don't understand why school would want any difference. There are places in the world known as Blue Zones, which are places with an above average number of people living to or past the age of 100. All of these places (Sardinia, Italy; Ikaria, Greece; Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica; Okinawa, Japan; Loma Linda, CA; and Singapore) eat diets with little to no meat. Areas in Hawai'i are actually being studied in order to become a Blue Zone due to the residents' long lives. Components like exercise, diet, and community all contribute to one's longevity. Why would we import foods, when the local foods are already proven to be extremely healthy? Plant based options could also improve students' focus at school, leading to better test scores. In regard to the environment, it's not sustainable to import as much food as we currently do. It contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and makes us very dependent on the mainland. If an emergency were to occur, we would be put in quite a difficult situation. By implementing a plant based option in schools, supplied by local farmers, there would be a decrease in emissions due to shortened transportation, circulation within the state's economy, and education to students on our state's culture and eating a healthy diet.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it would benefit the health of students and the environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kristin McNeal

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:11:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mollie Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Mollie Moore and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I grew up on the mainland until middle school. I remember visiting Hawaii about a year before moving to Oahu, the rich culture really impressed me, especially the local food. I loved experiencing eating freshly caught fish, or fruit and vegetables from local farmers markets. They were so tasty, made me feel good, and reminded me of the culture I was experiencing. It was a very memorable part of my trip. So, when I moved here transitioning into high school I was excited and to be honest, I had my hopes up for the school's food system. I wanted to be able to experience the hawaiian culture through the food I was eating at school. Not only is the food different from what I expected it to be, I

notice sometimes when I eat the meat provided by the cafeteria, it does not make me feel well and I end up regretting getting the food in the first place. I think this bill is a wonderful opportunity for our mililani community and other communities throughout the islands to not only get a better understanding of the rich hawaiian culture and agriculture we have on our islands but, to use it as a helpful addition to our schools food systems. I love the idea of offering more plant-based options as well, as there are many benefits from a plant based diet. Some benefits include reduced risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes and an increase in overall mental health and wellness. This is great for growing students! Even if students do not realize the benefits of plant based eating, having the option is the first step in the right direction. So, with this bill incorporating more locally grown food in our school systems with a plant based option we as students can learn more about hawaiian culture, feel better after eating, and have the desire to eat healthier and plant based because of the many benefits.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because I believe it could be a great bill in our society and will benefit the overall health of students around the state, it is also the perfect way to bring us closer as a community as we all learn to appreciate the islands we live on more and more in our daily lives. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mollie Moore

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:14:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ikona Basham-Hoohuli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong of this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:14:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brensen lopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in strong support or this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Farias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Suckoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
peter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i approve of this message

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colten W	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree and support this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:15:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamryn Titcomb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strong supporter of this bill and wish to follow through with the plan.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:16:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chryston W-R	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:16:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaleokalani G.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly in support of this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:16:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Na'ehu chasen kuliailoaauao kipi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a strong support of this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:16:29 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Miura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:17:09 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylob-Joe Amaral-Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of bill HB2083

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:17:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marley-Alexander Manandic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a strong support of this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:17:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
atapana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:17:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maximus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in strong suport of this

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:18:41 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamakana petty-tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:20:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie N	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

im in strong support of this bill

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:29:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cade Kawae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Cade Kawae and I am a twelfth grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083HD 1.

I have previously written a testimony to H.B. 2083 without amendments and am now here to testify for the revised bill. I remain in support of the promotion of healthier food options for students to consume in school, including various vegetarian and plant-based dietary foods. I believe that with the revised incentive rewards program, students and schools alike will feel more motivated to try out the new food program. By having schools recognize students for choosing locally grown products, they will receive more numbers in terms of which students eat locally sourced versus imported foods. As someone who usually only consumes school lunches whenever there is primarily meat-based options, I can say that recognizing me as a student in such a way would incentivize me to at least try out the plant-based and locally sourced food options, even if it may not seem all that appetizing. Under the school meals program, I appreciate the fact that the amended bill will provide all students with plant-based options. That way, students who may be vegetarian or simply prefer foods without dairy, meat, etc. may enjoy their meals without any complaints. The average student with an open palette may continue to choose their food however they choose, with the newly added plant-based options. So long as schools adhere to nutritional guidelines and ensure that all fresh ingredients in students' meals are

minimally processed, I am more than confident to say that this bill will benefit Hawaii's schools for the future in regards to healthier diets and a healthier culture around local food sources.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it would really make a difference in our school's meals and change the way students think about what they eat on a daily basis. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cade Kawae

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:48:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2083 will incentivize schools to provide for our children with local farm to school meals that consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

I strongly support HB2083 because it is a common-sense idea that supports our farmers and at the same time helps our keiki by providing local, fresh, healthy options. We know that by promoting healthy lifestyle choices we can help keiki reduce their risk for developing chronic diseases and improve their overall health.

Efforts to support our farmers builds our resiliency, avoids the greenhouse gases that would have been emitted from shipping food in for meals offered at public schools, and stimulates our economy by creating local jobs and supporting the growth of local agriculture.

Mahalo for your support!

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:25:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul A. Nahulu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support** this testimony!

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:34:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mackenzie Agustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We want our schools to be fed locally grown food. Hawaiian food in particular. Many students go hungry at school which leaves school food their only option to eat. Many rather go starving then to eat they foof given. I support this bill.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:37:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Tateyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Riley Tateyama and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083, to have fresh local food in school's lunches and plant based meals

Living in Mililani so close to my elementary school I drive by everyday and remember fond memories. During elementary school I remember always being so excited and honored to be selected for the privilege of lunch duty. Being able to miss class and have a little field trip to the cafeteria! I remember with my peers always being so excited to serve the food and have that responsibility. I want for my students attending Mililani Ike elementary school to be able to help make food from ingredients and see the hard work that goes into their food. As you can imagine it will make the youth have a positive relationship and be grateful for the work that goes into preparing their food. This is just one of the educational

opportunities that can happen. By being more appreciative maybe students will be less wasteful eating more fresh food that can lead to health benefits.

I believe that the health of my fellow students is important and the data in this bill was not shocking about how antinutritional the school food is. Between my peers I constantly hear school food is bad. School food has continued to have this negative connotation. All school food except private school. Everyone raves about private school lunches and I think it is comical that adults continue to think kids don't like vegetables. I guess some do not but what people continue to rave about is Kamehameha School's fresh salad bar and how they have fresh food. The main appeal to kids about public school lunches is that everything comes in a bag. By having fresh food more kids would eat it. I think having vegetarian options would be a great addition to support the health of kids growing up in Hawaii, but there needs to make sure to enforce what is considered plant based because plant based, highly processed foods are definitely not going to be a positive addition to kids diets.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because Hawaii communities would benefit greatly from this. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riley Tateyama

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:43:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mathias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:43:40 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:43:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:44:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree with this bill and think that further actions should be made to solve the problem.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:45:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
hylee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this becuase all of the school lunches is not good that all lot of people just dont eat and they just scerve when the food is not good

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:45:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaily Dabalos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the new Bill about school foods. The reason why is because the school lunches are getting students sick time to time. I think we should step it up for our kids of the community, as they deserve better & better food. Along with the school milks being expired sometimes, sometimes they even complain about the food being stale. That's why I support.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:45:22 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zaylee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this testimony because we as kids need help foods to eat and what were eating right now doesnt seem so health. I think we need to take a stand on this.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:46:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alapa Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I personally would say that I would support this bill because as a student at a high school student I would say that the food could use a lot of improvement. I think this because a lot of the food that they give us for lunch and breakfast are not good and hard to eat.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:48:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calsyanna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stringly support this bill. It is a human right fo rhealthy and real food. Our children have only this food at school.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:08:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im in support because me and my classmate feels like our school don't provide the healthy needs we need. We agree that, we should have gardens stationed in our school and our students and teacher can work on it during class. And we have a small school as well so, this is a really good idea. We just learned that our fruits and veges were being injected woh chemical's. And we already have food that are not very much good, so why not give us fresh made veges and fruits formlocal farmers and gardens from our camps.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 3:32:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Kyra Kim and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Growing up, for school lunches there was never an option for a plant-based diet. Well, actually I didn't really put any thought into what school lunches were made out of. I just ate whatever was given to me. However, now as I am a senior in highschool, I am intrigued by what I have learned about how our school lunches are made. A lot of our school lunches are imported and now locally grown. When I found out about this, I was extremely shocked. Individuals in Hawai'i always talk about supporting locally however the DOE schools are not. They are importing goods from the Mainland. I have 1 younger sibling that attends an IHS school and 4 other younger siblings that attend DOE schools. My goal from

them is to help them become more aware of where their school lunches come from and the importance of eating sustainably. When I asked one of my younger sisters, who is in elementary school, where she thought her school lunches come from, she answered “from animals”. Although this is somewhat correct, it is not 100% organic since farms inject GMOs and other growth impacting substances. Those farms only care about getting as much “meat” as they can out to the public even if it risks those lives who consume it. If we allow school lunches to become more sustainable, we will be able to help other students become aware of where their school lunches come from. Students who eat these school lunches will have a better connection with the ‘aina since they will know where their food comes from. And those who prefer plant-based meals will be able to partake of school lunches. This might also spark more interests in individuals to want to take care of the ‘aina and land that gives back to them.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because I believe that it will impact not only the students at Mililani High School but also the Mililani community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyra Kim

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:47:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Payton Hiromoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Payton and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I've witnessed firsthand the positive impact of fresh, locally grown foods on people's health and well-being. By embracing locally sourced products, we not only prioritize nutrition but also support our local farmers like my grandfather. This bill represents a crucial step towards providing people with wholesome, sustainable meal options that promote healthier lifestyles. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill for the betterment of our future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Payton Hiromoto

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:22:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlee Furukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Carlee Furukawa and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

In school, food is a vital source students need to get through the day, but food isn't just fuel. The food students are provided with at school can change eating habits, portion sizes, and the kinds of food they eat. Therefore it's important for children to know that they have options when it comes to eating at school. With HB2083 we can help children learn about locally sourced foods and vegetarian options. At a young age it's important for children to start learning about agriculture and how it affects our food systems so they can realize how valuable food is but also how it affects our environment. It is our job to prevent children from experiencing the same problems with food that many of us have encountered.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it will greatly improve the future generations to come. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Carlee Furukawa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:53:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dannika Pila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawai'i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Dannika Pila and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I have been attending public schools for 13 years. That is 13 years of school lunch. Some days the lunches were not appealing, other days, they were just not healthy. I would often have to eat another meal when I got home from school. This isn't ideal for families on a budget and kids who are growing and active in sports after school.

House Bill 2083 will not only provide healthy alternatives for students but support our local farmers as well. Our current school lunches are made out of processed foods that are bad because they have many chemicals and are not natural. Many of the foods in our lunches are not even from Hawai'i, but instead, from the continental United States. Importing our foods from the continent only adds to the accumulation of greenhouse gasses, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and many other harmful chemicals and gasses that get trapped in our atmosphere because foods need to be transported to Hawai'i via planes. For the food to stay fresh, they are also filled with chemicals that are not healthy. If we can stop importing foods and instead use food that is locally grown the result would be our farmers will thrive, our environment will be protected, and kids like me will be provided with fresh local fruit and vegetables for lunch.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because students like me deserve healthy options for the food that they consume during their formative years.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dannika Pila

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:01:17 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taevin Xayaseang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Taevin Xayaseang and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

As a student that is enrolled in AP Environmental Science (APES), we learn a lot about what could and will happen if we do not take action regarding our food waste. Having this locally grown food in place of our current school lunches will not only benefit students' health but it would give so many opportunities for classes/schools to learn. Classes that are provided here at Mililani High School including agriculture, APES, and as well as other classes like culinary arts can USE this locally grown food to learn more about the impact and importance of what we do with these foods. Agriculture could learn more about organic compost, APES could learn more about the importance of our food waste using

hands-on activities, and culinary arts could learn about different foods and how to properly use them to make a dish. There's so many endless possibilities that we can use with this change of school lunch; The education system, not only in Mililani, but all across the island could use this change for the greater good.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because I am very excited for the new and amazing opportunities this bill can provide for us students. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Taevin Xayaseang

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:48:27 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Onosa'i Salanoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Onosa'i Salanoa and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I am a student athlete at Mililani High School and a resident of Mililani. For students like myself, having a healthy diet from school meals is crucial because it will allow us athletes or even people who exercise to have a positive outcome in our performances on the field, in the weight room and in the classroom in a physical and mental way. I've been reading about this law and the advantages of eating food that is farmed locally. Food that is grown locally uses less energy and waste in its transit, which is better for the environment. Compared to the school meals we eat currently, locally grown food and plant-based food options are healthier, fresher, and more nutrient-dense. I just want the best, and most healthy meal options for my school, my community and also for the environment around me! I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it will allow student athletes like me to have a diet that is healthy for our body, a diet that allows us to be mentally focused for school and sports, as well as physically. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Onosa'i Salanoa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:51:01 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiden Dimaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am Aiden Dimaya, a senior at Mililani High School, writing to express my support for H.B. No. 2083. As a student, I consume school lunch every day, and it holds a special significance for me and my friends. School lunchtime fosters a sense of community, making us feel like family. However, many of us are dissatisfied with the current state of school lunches, often finding them processed and unappetizing. We even humorously refer to them as "mystery meat" due to their unrecognizable appearance.

Passage of H.B. No. 2083 would not only enhance the quality of school lunches but also positively impact the lives of students just like me and all across Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,

**Aiden Dimaya
Mililani High School**



Date: February 14, 2024
To: EDN
From: Climate Future Forum
Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2083 HD1**
Hearing: Feb 15, 2024

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Climate Future Forum, I'm writing to you in **strong support of HB2083**. Climate Future Forum (CFF) is a network of youth and adults dedicated to supportive climate policy and legislation. From an event held on December 9, 2023 at the Hawai'i State Capitol when youth and policy makers convened, a list of priority bills was agreed upon.

The mission of the **Climate Future Forum** (<https://www.climatefuturehawaii.org/>) is to inspire youth to be active and engaged participants in developing and advocating for climate policy and legislation. We do so by bringing together youth (ages 14-26), educators, policymakers, and nonprofits to evaluate and discuss climate action priorities and provide tangible steps to empower youth. Our hope is for youth to forge relationships with policymakers so that they can continue to work together throughout the legislative process in Hawai'i and beyond.

On December 9th, 2023, the Climate Future Forum was held at the Hawaii State Capitol. The event included over 80 youth, adults, legislators and staff members, and about 30 people from the community. One of the goals of this event was for youth to develop their legislative priorities for the 2023 legislative session. One of their priorities is centered around improving food systems. Therefore, the Climate Future Forum strongly supports this bill because by creating a coordinated food systems plan, we will be able to:

- increase local food security through a coordinated approach
- achieve the state's goals for local food production and support local farmers
- diversify Hawai'i's economy by supporting a robust local food economy
- contribute to the local agricultural industry (new markets, more stability, more jobs)
- reduce food miles and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,
Paul Bernstein on behalf of the Climate Future Forum

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:19:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Sydney Yamamoto and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Being a military kid I've traveled to many places and have experienced many different types of school meals. Living in Japan we had to pack our own lunches which consisted of a balanced meal and they made sure the kids finished their whole meal before moving on. I found this very beneficial because it cut down on the amount of food waste. Moving to the mainland I found that school lunches were very unbalanced and there was a lot of waste that was produced at every meal. One thing that mainland schools did do in elementary was that they had plastic trays and utensils cutting down on the amount of plastic pollution. Compared to coming to Hawaii I found that they used a lot of plastic and paper

materials for lunches which could be recyclable but at the end of the day they put everything in the trash can defeating the whole purpose of it. The one thing that they all had in common was that no one knew what the benefits were of the food that was being consumed and no one knew how it would impact us in our learning environment. While they did put the image of “The Nutrition Plate” Were they ever feeding us the right portions? With this bill it not only helps to provide an unique opportunity for students who don’t eat meat to have school lunches but also provides an opportunity to give students a chance to learn about what they are eating and how it affects them in the classroom. Implementing plant based foods that could be local to many of the schools will help students to learn more about their cultures and the history that surrounds them. But it also provides an opportunity to go deeper into what is in the foods as well as how it can help benefit them in the classroom,

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it helps to provide an unique opportunity for students who don’t eat meat to have school lunches but also provides an opportunity to give students a chance to learn about what they are eating and how it affects them in the classroom. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sydney Yamamoto

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:57:01 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mason Kaeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to eat good food

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:29:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Ishikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Tyler Ishikawa and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Food is such an important part of our lives because we need it to live. So why aren't we taking our food more seriously? Public schools in Hawaii are feeding students breakfast and lunch made up with 80% of processed foods. In addition to this, 85 - 90 percent of our food is imported. This not only puts students at risk for health issues, it is killing the environment.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083, HD 1 because obtaining food from local sources and adding a plant based lunch will reduce both negative health and environmental effects. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify..

Sincerely,

Tyler Ishikawa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:58:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Te'o-Nera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we should eat better foods

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:59:17 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I talked about it with my second year Hawaiian class at Nanakuli High and Intermediate, we greatly appreciate and support this!

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:59:20 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Nera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it gives the next generation a chance to change the ways we have created and lived the past decades. I believe that we all deserve good food for us to eat and grow from in schools.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:59:55 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shaysen akiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this testimony because we are eating things that can give us diseases, cancer, diabetes, and other things. Also, im trying to live a long life.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:00:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Leano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Leila Leano and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

It is my second year attending school at Mililani High School, but it is also my second year of never having eaten school lunch. It isn't that I don't have the option to try it, but I am a little skeptical since a lot of the meals are not locally sourced and are not made freshly. I want the future generations to be excited about lunch. I want them to be eager to learn about where their food comes from. By supporting this bill we as a community are taking a step towards fresh and nutritious meals, but also furthering the future generations of Mililani High School students.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because I truly want the future generations of Hawaii to be excited to have a relationship with the Aina through consuming locally sourced foods and learning about how the land provides and has had a major importance in our culture for generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Leila Leano

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:00:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this bill because it gives us students the option of what we want to eat because the schools options in food choices are not to what the kids want to eat and most of the kids in this school don't go to eat the food because of the bad choices that they have to offer

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:00:27 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne P Salausa-Kaawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support it

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:01:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I will be supporting this bill because we need to focus on our future!

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:01:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nehemiah Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill because I want to have a change with the school meals in our school. This will aslo help with the future generations and will help change the school.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:02:04 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
judah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hb2083

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:20:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brynn Yonemori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Brynn Yonemori and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

My father was born and raised in Mililani, and although he graduated from a university elsewhere, he returned to the community because he wanted his family to be raised in a safe environment. Someday, I would also like to do the same as he did. By supporting this, we are doing our best to ensure that the future generations of children in Mililani schools are getting the healthiest, freshest, and most nutritious meals possible.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because this not only concerns children today, but concerns future children just as much, if not more. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brynn Yonemori

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:30:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahenahe Quartero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this bill moving forward. With this bill, i do believe it would be a better benefit for all of us in the long run.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:30:52 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tilionapuanani Keohuhu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I believe that schools should be able to have a say in what the schools meals look like but I also believe that we should be using homegrown food from farmers.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:33:23 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhanz Kaawa-kawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of me and some students here at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School, we think it would be best if school lunches changed.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:33:35 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jezeree Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2083 because it we need good food from the Ainā.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:34:58 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jachelle Araiza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this cause to challenge public schools to provide 'Āina based food diet. There is a need to fund this change, a need to bring experts into coach a swift change, and there needs to be accountability checks to see the progress of the change.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:35:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Unga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2083 because we need the food from the Ainā.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:42:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kolo.A	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I guess I support this bill because I would like to have better school lunch and not no frozen dry no flavor food that they feed us in school

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 10:42:08 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald vea III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this bill because i want better food, i think we could get better food by getting fresh food not couple days old

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 11:26:00 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Young	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Julia Young and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Throughout my time as a resident and student in Hawaii, I've had firsthand experience of the school lunches that have been provided for us. To say the least, I have not enjoyed any of them, and many of my peers would agree. It is truly heartbreaking to see the poor quality of food that is consumed by students here in Hawaii. Moreover, while most students have the privilege to come to school without needing to buy school lunches every day, there are and will always be a few who do not have a choice but to consume these overly processed lunches daily due to financial circumstances. According to the Honolulu Civil Beat, \$45,000 worth of food, primarily imported from the mainland, is purchased annually

for schools. It is also important to note that from a research conducted by the University of Hawaii at Hilo, around 90% of our food in Hawaii is imported from the mainland. Why should we continue to spend so much money on imported food, when we can put more effort into helping not only the environment, but also our students, local farms, and the food security here on the island. This is why I am testifying for H.B. No. 2083, in hopes that we could make a difference for future generations of students. Naturally, this goal of increased self sufficiency would take a while and a lot of effort, but if we take action now, no matter how big, there may still be hope for our food system here in Hawaii. Our students are our future. By making a change starting with the schools, I hope that the change would grow to become something greater, something more substantial for the rest of our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jullia Young

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:05:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jordan-ann	on behald of nanakuli hi and intermideate we want better foods	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

kkk

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 12:31:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailee Reason	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education

My name is Hailee Reason and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083.

I moved here to Hawaii a year and half ago. Since living here I have taken a marine biology class as well as an AP environmental science class. These classes have taught me so much about environmental issues and research as well what causes these issues and solutions to climate change. One of the first assignments that we did was writing a letter to our great grandchildren. In my letter I wrote about how I hope that they are able to experience the beautiful vibrant sunsets that I get to see, I hoped they say could snorkel the reefs and see them full of life, but most importantly I wanted them to look back and thank my generation for putting in the work to preserve the environment so they could experience

those amazing things. The best way that we can help preserve the world that we know today for our great grandchildren is by changing our diets. The industrial meat industry is one of the biggest carbon emissions sources in the world. This bill is intended to implement more plant based meals into school lunches. Starting this program at schools will introduce a new diet centered around locally sourced fruits and vegetables to the younger generation. If that generation grows up eating less animal products and meats they will hopefully continue eating like that for the rest of their lives helping improve the overall well being of the environment.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it will not only help bring Hawaii closer to the 30% by 2030 goal but it also has many health and environmental benefits for the future generations of Hawaii. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hailee Reason

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 12:59:12 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayda Sakoda	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Jayda Sakoda and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

As someone who has lived in Hawaii and been a part of the Mililani community for all my life I find it extremely important that me and my fellow peers get proper meals that can not only benefit us but the environment as well. Many of my peers will often go through the entire school day without anything to eat, besides snacks such as chips or cookies. This bill has the power to start change not only at the high school but also the entire Mililani community. I feel extremely passionate about this bill and the things that it can accomplish. I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because of the strong change that it can bring to not only the Mililani community but to Hawaii as well. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Sincerely,

Jayda Sakoda

Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:07:32 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:07:46 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
keoki duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:08:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pumehana Edayan Sarol-Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I think it would be better for students to be fed healthy food than chemical filled foods. This would be better for myself as well as the future generations. School lunch directly from the ground is really healthy and can prevent many health problems.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:09:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pai?ea Pa?aluhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely support this bill! As a highschooler, The kinds of lunches that schools serve is questioning...

I always wished for my school to server organic and more healthier lunches instead of artificial foods made in a factory.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:10:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shania W	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because i want to consume good things , and eventually i would like my kids to go to school and eat something good also. It would be so better to eat and consume things that are fresh and we know that they havent been anywhere near chemicals.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:10:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Graycie-Smiles Tolentino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this testimony because the fact that school systems are very poor especially on the west side. Which means that we are not able to provide good food for the students.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:14:38 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paisley Paulsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:30AM, House conference room 309 Hawaii State Capitol
Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Paisley Paulsen and I am a 12 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I am an intern in the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation program where we learn about sustainable agriculture. Here we grow our own produce and make plant-based meals. We learn the importance of growing food locally and how it benefits our land and community. I learned that sustainable and local agriculture can greatly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that we produce when we import our food. Many of the plant-based meals we make there are quite simple but also tasty. We were taught that doing this at least once a week can greatly improve not only our health but also the environment since meat and dairy production holds a great percentage of the reason for global warming.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because it will benefit Hawai'i as a whole, providing better health and land for us, as well as benefiting future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paisley Paulsen Mililani High School

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:11:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gage Willing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this testimony because students like me in class have to hard hard all day and every day, and some of us even come to school without eating anything, so when we go to the cafetiria, we don't want to eat food that tastes like crap, we need good food for energy sitting in class.

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 1:55:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gianna Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30 AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Gianna Brown, and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of H.B.No. 2083.**

Our country’s schools are feeding the future leaders and citizens of America. If we cannot put forth the extra effort to ensure they receive the proper amount of nutrients from food provided daily in their cafeterias, how will we keep them healthy? The average ingredient may fly hundreds of miles, if not more, to arrive there. Therefore, this results in quality degradation due to multiple freezing and defrosting cycles. Additionally, fruits and vegetables diminish most nutritional value within the first few days off the vine. Hence, the transportation process alone

adversely affects the overall lunch quality. However, H.B.No. 2083 advocates for the cultivation and utilization of locally sourced produce. This initiative aims to reduce transportation expenses, minimize nutritional loss, and support local farming economies.

Moreover, the bill's proposal to offer a plant-based option benefits kids with allergies and religious exemptions who do not eat animal products. However, reducing animal product consumption can slow global warming and increase health. Almost all animal products in the United States come from factory farming-style corporations. Factory farming is where animals are raised in the most cost-efficient manner possible, living in cages they can barely stand and turn around in. GMOs and unsanitary conditions are commonplace in the meat and dairy industry. This is wrong for many reasons; it is not only wholly unethical but also in your food. Salmonella, for example, is so prevalent in raw poultry that whenever you work with it in your kitchen, you must disinfect everything to free your family from sickness.

I hope you consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because of its numerous benefits for the health and well-being of our students and community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gianna Brown

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 2:51:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's feed our school children healthy local produce. It supports healthy bodies and our local farmers.

Change is needed in the food we feed children in the schools!

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 11:16:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quincy Coullahan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Quincy Coullahan and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in strong support** of H.B.No. 2083.

Just the other day I was talking to my school counselor and I mentioned the large amount of people who choose not to eat school lunch. She responded saying that this was a problem which she commonly observed. Many students at our school are not eating throughout the entire school day because school lunch is the only option they have, yet it doesn't include their dietary restrictions, or they wish it was more fresh and less processed. Not only does this bill support local farms and our 'āina, but it supports the Hawai'i public school student body. It will encourage all students to eat during the day and be more inclusive to all through plant based meals and locally sourced products. This excites those not only with a plant based diet, but all students who crave a fresher, unprocessed lunch. My AP Environmental Science class had discussions concerning the lack of locally sourced and plant based meals in cafeterias and even

those who enjoy having meat on their platter believe these solutions should be implemented for the sake of their peers and for more intriguing, healthy meals.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 as it will greatly benefit local communities, the planet, and students state-wide. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Quincy Coullahan

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 6:46:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sachi Nacario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Sachi Nacario and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

As a student who has grown up in Hawaii , I have been able to see how the lunch meals have changed overtime. Over the years, I think that there has definitely been a push to incorporate fruits and vegetables into meals as well as more of a balance but there obviously can be further changes. Currently there are a bunch of processed foods and meats that we consume everyday in our school meals which contributes to many environmental impacts. As we know, one of the biggest impacts being contribution to climate change due to the release of greenhouse gasses. However, there needs to be a different approach to be able to satisfy the needs of current and future students while we

still have the time to do so. Having farm to school meals would really benefit students. Not only would they be getting the health benefits but they would also be getting the exposure to their culture. Being able to eat foods locally from Hawaii and being able to understand the history would really build people and cause for personal growth. For younger generations this would seriously impact them as they would have so much learning opportunity and would start with so many resources and help at a young age. They would be able to grow up knowing more about the foods, the environment, sustainability and so much more. Moreover, this would help with bringing people together, which is what Hawaii is really about. Coming together as one and spreading the aloha so that everyone is working together and taking care of the island so that we can receive great foods and resources. Furthermore, this does not only have to be a school project this could also bring the community together to be able to work toward this 30% goal. This would help to foster so many benefits such as, learning opportunities, purpose, a sense of belonging and growth within the community as a whole. Following this, having plant based options would really be a great option as well. Personally, I have a friend that is a pescetarian and she can not eat the school lunch most of the time because the main entree almost always has meat in it. Having this plant-based option for students that may be pescetarian or vegetarian keeps it inclusive so they don't have to miss the entree or so that they don't have to skip out on lunch entirely. Not only will this benefit the people, but it would also greatly improve our environment with not having to be so dependent on meats in school lunches all the time. Being able to accommodate all students should be the goal for faculty and staff. Altogether, making sure that students are comfortable and are taken care of.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because of the growth and joy it would be able to bring to not only the students of Hawaii but the community as well. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sachi Nacario

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:42:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reagan Botill	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

2:00PM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Reagan Botill and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying (in support of H.B.No. 2083.

A plant-based meal option is necessary for individuals who don't eat meat. When I get school lunch, I pay for the whole meal just to be able to eat a couple of sides. I also can't make home lunch every day. So, I often end up hungry at school since I can't eat the lunch provided. Not being able to eat affects my academic performance and my mood daily. At the end of the days that I can't eat lunch, I am tired, hungry, and can't focus. More often than not, I end up falling asleep in my classes due to a lack of energy.

When I do eat, it is often food provided by teachers or friends. Teachers shouldn't have to use their own money to feed their students. Many of which refuse to eat the school lunch because of low quality.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because having quality options for school lunches is essential to academic performance and wellbeing. It impacts people like me who can't eat the school lunch. Having a plant-based option for the student body will give people like me the option to eat school lunches.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Reagan Botill

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 8:19:11 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair Representative Kristin Kahaloe, Vice Chair House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:30AM, House conference room 325 Hawaii State Capitol Support for H.B. No.2083

My name is Kiana Lee and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

This bill strives for local food being served in school cafeterias. If Mililani high school

tries to add more local sides on our plates, then it can promote local crops and farmers and it can also teach the kids about foods local to Hawaii. This is not only good for students' health but also for their knowledge and understanding. If they like the food they're served, then they'll want to know more about it, like where it came from and what it's called. Promoting local foods is also beneficial to students' health because a lot of the food served in the cafeterias are highly processed and pumped with antibiotics. Many of these processed foods like meat and dairy products, generate 1/4 of greenhouse gas emissions, so if we were to cut back on processed foods by using locally grown foods then we can slow down the amount of greenhouse gasses we emit through school lunches. Also, providing vegetarian options can help reduce the amount of food that is being wasted. For example, a close friend of mine can't usually eat anything from the school cafeteria because it's not within her diet. So when she gets lunch, the only thing she eats are the vegetables, leaving the rest of her food to be wasted. If we had a vegetarian option it could cause less food to be wasted and it could also reduce the amount of trash going into the landfills. Although it may be hard for farmers to produce enough food for school lunches, we can find ways for the government to help support farmers in producing enough local foods for both the schools and the markets. This can work if grants or loans were given to farmers, strictly to expand their crops and become more sustainable within the benefit of schools and students.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it allows students to focus on local foods, expanding kid's knowledge, supporting farmers, and it gives kids a choice of a vegetarian lunch. All these things are good for the teens' health and also for the environment because if less trash was collected from Mililani High school then we wouldn't produce as much greenhouse gas emissions and it promotes locally grown foods, so not as much processed foods. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kiana Lee

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:07:24 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunissa Domingo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Alastair Domingo and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the intent** of H.B.No. 2083.

In school we learned about the environmental and health impacts of the Meat Industry. I find it beneficial to give kids/teengers, the future of Hawaii, the opportunity of relying less on meat in their meals. Ideas like “Meatless Mondays” have been approved and shown to work in a large-scale place like New York so we should also be putting in the effort to support our Aina since deforestation and Co2 emissions are linked to cattle.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it has the potential of protecting our health and environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sunissa Domingo

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE

Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Thomas Kubo and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083, which states that by 2030, public schools should have 30% of food locally sourced.

I, amongst many of my peers in school, eat school lunch all the time. Personally, I do not have many problems with the taste and quality of the food. However, through my environmental science class, I've learned that most of the food I consume is heavily processed and shipped from outer island sources. Heavily processed foods have caused many health concerns among children such as diabetes. Having locally sourced foods available to public schools help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the agriculture industry.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because though I will not be in high school much longer, I have younger cousins who will eventually make it to where I am today. My hope for them is that they have a healthier, more sustainable diet. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kubo
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 11:24:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Haituka	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Miki Haituka and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083. It is incredibly important that this bill passes to move towards the betterment of our land. Increasing the amount of local foods in school meals will help develop healthier habits in Hawaii students and provide them with more nutritious foods, rather than the industrialized, frozen food that is imported from the mainland. These foods are usually very processed which can contain harmful chemicals and antibiotics that are harmful for students and the environment, as they increase the risk of cancers and cardiovascular diseases as well as polluting the air. This bill also will give the option of having a plant based meal for kids in school which will help student’s health and our aina. Increasing the amount of locally sourced foods in our school lunches is great but the farming of livestock and dairy products on our land is also harmful to the water and air on our islands. The high amount of cattle feces produced by cattle farming contaminates the water of streams near these farms and air in the surrounding area. Plant

based meals will also help the nutrition of students eating it which is extremely important as the meals schools provide are some students' only source of nutrition during the day. These meals reduce the risk of higher blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, and some cancers. I hope you will support this bill for the future of our kids and environment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miki Haitzuka

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education



Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Kayden Anzaldo and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083, HD1.

Being a student athlete at Mililani High School and a member of the Mililani community, I want what's best for both my school and my community. It is important for students like myself to get proper nutrition from school meals as it fuels my performance in both the classroom and on the field. I have been learning about this bill and the benefits of locally grown food. Locally grown food is better for the environment because it reduces the amount of waste and energy used during food transportation. Locally grown food and plant based food options are fresher and more nutritious than the current food options in school meals.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083, HD1 because it will greatly benefit the health of students and it is a very sustainable option for school meals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kayden Anzaldo
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 8:20:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Ryan	Mililani Highschool	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Thursday, February 15 2024

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Ellie Ryan and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083. To me this bill is promoting healthier meals in schools in Hawaii by using locally sourced products. It also is inclusive and encourages reducing meat consumption or making people aware of the impacts of their meat consumption, which I believe that both are important for the community. Not only does this bill improve students' health but it supports the environment by not encouraging unethical animal slaughter.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because of the health benefits, the awareness, and for protecting our animals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ellie Ryan

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education



Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Gemma Muller-Smit and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

Durning school we learn about all the amazing foods that are grown on the Islands but the only food that makes it to our plates at lunch is pre packaged and processed vegetables that are grown thousands of miles away that you can purchase at nearly any store in the country. Not only do these meals lack nutritional value compared to the fresh food we could buy here, but we only have 1-3 vegetarian options a month. As a vegetarian this makes my life very difficult because bringing my own lunch to school is difficult as I have a limited amount of space and little access to temperature safe places to store it durning school, as well as little access to proper appliances to heat it up. Like many students, I am sometimes forced to skip lunch all together causing me to struggle to keep up in class when I forget my lunch at home. This is unhealthy for students and can easily be solved by bringing in more local fruit and vegetables and adding a plant based option to the school menu.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 for the health of all the students in the hawaii school system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gemma Muller-Smit
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 9:13:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maika Cardenas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education, My name is Maika Cardenas and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

My personal experience in my school is that I recognize many problems regarding the school lunches. A solution of this is having more locally sourced foods incorporated into our diets which would not only support our local farmers, but will align with the growing awareness of the environmental impact of meat production. By providing diverse and sustainable food choices, we can contribute to the wellbeing of our students and promote healthier lifestyles, and reduce the ecological footprint. The school lunches have a lot of processed meats that are very bad for the health of our students.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because I believe that these changes would not only benefit the health and well being of our students but also contribute positively to our local economy and environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Maika Cardenas

Mililani High School

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

LATE

Thursday, February 15, 2024
9:30AM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Alyson Law and I am a 11 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying (pick one and keep it bold) **in support of H.B.No. 2083.**

I'm able to eat any kind of food since I'm not much of a picky eater, but I just can't eat school lunches anymore. I used to bring home lunch to school, but that was more time consuming and a waste of money for me as well. Since most of the school lunches are processed food which isn't healthy for the well being of students at school. Having more locally sourced food will help us reach our goal of 30% by 2030. The health of the students will be much more improved and healthier for them. The local goods will give us much more energy than the processed foods. With a plant-based diet option, those who are vegetarian, etc. wouldn't have to waste the food since they might just eat the sides of vegetables/fruits. Local farmers will be much more supported and the economy will be great due to not paying for imported goods to come here.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 1 because we must reach our goal by 2023 and Farm to School will be much more supported. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alyson Law
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 12:41:21 PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Joy Sumpter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for H.B. No.2083, HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Aria Sumpter and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support of H.B.No. 2083.**

This opportunity we are given to help reduce the intake of meat will not only be beneficial to students but also to our aina. As we continue to try to better our aina, a way we can push that idea further is to make use of the land we have and source food locally to schools. On the same topic, a common disease that people get, especially in Hawaii, is Gout. If meat is consumed too often, a common result is Gout, and meat is only one of the leading causes of containing Gout. It starts in the early years of life and starts showing effects around ages 30-50. Residents of Hawaii are more prone to Gout because studies show that Native Hawaiians, Japanese and Filipinos (which make up 51.6% of the population for schools across the state according to a report from U.S News and World Report) have higher uric acid levels. My point being, to prevent the start of Gout from a young age, we can use programs, such as “Meatless Mondays” to slow down the spread of gout and improve the health of our keiki and be able to utilize the food locally grown into schools.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Aria Sumpter

Mililani High School