

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
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024
3:05 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2774, HD2
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2774, HD2. This bill resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill, however, defers to the designated departments, and offers comments. HDOA stands ready to support the departments and agencies in achieving the goals set forth in this bill which directly support our farmers and ranchers to achieve generational economic profitability. Accessing stable anchor markets like government meal programs will create a market base for the sector to grow. HDOA commits to assisting departments in assessing its purchasing, connection to local producers, and assisting producers in meeting the market demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

Date: 03/15/2024

Time: 03:05 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Agriculture and Environment
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2774, HD2 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the department of education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2774, HD2.

This bill will help the School Food Services Branch streamline and standardize reporting obligations, which provides the Legislature and the public the status of the Department's progress in meeting the local farm-to-school meal cost goals.

The Department appreciates this bill's intent to separate its local food purchase goals from other state departments by clarifying that its specific percentage goal targets shall be:

- 30% by year 2030
- 34% by year 2040
- 42% by year 2045
- 50% by year 2050

The most efficient and consistent pathway to purchase more local food is a multi-pronged strategy utilizing distributor-to-farmer partnerships, augmented by increasing direct procurement from farms and food hubs. The Department's menu planners communicate closely with our network of qualified distributors, who currently interface with local farmers about what crop ingredients our school meals will need six to twelve months in advance. The recent hiring of a Farm to School Coordinator will support these efforts to increase engagement with local farmers, ranchers, processors, and distributors.

Additionally, the Department is assessing opportunities for more direct local procurement from farms, processors, and food hubs. The Department launched a Request for Information (RFI) campaign in October 2023 to solicit produce and product information from interested farmers and potential vendors to inform the Department about available resources. After the campaign closed on December 4, 2023, the Department is using the RFI information to develop a Request for Proposal to increase direct purchasing from geographically preferred vendors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION
Friday, March 15, 2024 — 3:05 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 2774 HD2, Relating to Local Agricultural Products.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

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

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 2774 HD2 and offers an amendment. This bill modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education (DOE) to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

Ulupono supports the State's farm-to-institution efforts, which commits to local food procurement goals through 2050 (including the DOE's own statutorily required goal of 30% local by 2030). In addition to providing more fresh, nutritious locally sourced meals to our keiki and community, this will serve our local farmers and ranchers by providing market access so they can grow their food operations as state departments makes progress each year toward that goal.

In order to maintain the legislative intent of both Act 175, SLH 2021, and Act 176, SLH 2021, we recommend removing the phrase "provided that the department of education shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph" on page 3, lines 16-17, of the bill in order to maintain the current interim goal for the DOE to meet 10% locally sourced meals by 2025. By holding each participating state department, including the DOE, accountable to interim goals, we believe that the state can be transparent and evaluate how best to support the success of each program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



HB2774 HD2
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Education

March 15, 2024

3:05 p.m.

Conference Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2774 HD2, which addresses discrepancies in locally sourced food benchmarks between the Department of Education (DOE) and other state entities in Hawai'i. **OHA highlights that this legislation is crucial for advancing the resilience of Hawaii's economy, environment, culture, and public health through bolstering our local food systems.**

HB2774 HD2 is a crucial piece of legislation that intends to bridge existing gaps in the benchmarks for locally sourced food across various state departments. By setting ambitious objectives for purchasing locally grown food, this bill seeks to support local farmers and keep revenue from local produce within the state.

This measure is not only critical for promoting local agriculture, but it also enhances the nutritional quality of meals served in public institutions. Research has consistently shown that locally sourced fresh produce contributes to improved health outcomes and reduces the risk of chronic diseases.¹ This is vital for Native Hawaiians and of particular importance to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

In 2020, OHA developed Mana i Maui Ola, our strategic plan. The plan is made up of four directions: educational pathways, health outcomes, quality housing and economic stability. Increasing Native Hawaiians' access to food of and by our 'āina directly impacts our health outcomes, our success in education and our ability to provide economically for our 'ohana and communities. The bill also reaffirms Hawaiians' connection to the land and traditions of sustainable agriculture practiced by their ancestors. Supporting local agricultural products not only preserves our cultural heritage

¹ Lucan, S. C., & DiNicolantonio, J. J. (2015). How calorie-focused thinking about obesity and related diseases may mislead and harm public health. *Public health nutrition*, 18(4), 571-581.



HB2774 HD2
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Education

but also fosters economic opportunities within our community, contributing to its overall prosperity and well-being.

OHA urges the committee to **support HB2774 HD2**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



HIPHI Board

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

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

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

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

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

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

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

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

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

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. Richards, Vice Chair
Members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Education Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB2774 Relating to Local Agriculture Products

Mtg: Friday, March 15, 2024

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

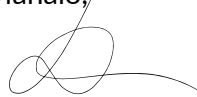
Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide Support for HB2774, which streamlines the benchmarks for various state departments in meeting a 30% locally sourced products goal by 2030.

This bill clarifies the differences between Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176, Act 144) procurement goals. The Department of Education is listed under Farm to School and Farm to State, and each of these Acts has different benchmarks. This bill clarifies that the DOE is subject to the Farm to School benchmark of 30% local food by 2030. The requirements of goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting will strengthen the efforts to reach the Local Food procurement goals.

The bill supports an increase in local procurement via a continuum of incremental goals through 2050. Every year the locally sourced food goals increase by 5% for the Department of Education, culminating in a 50% locally sourced goal by 2050. Increased procurement of locally grown and raised foods for consumption by Hawai'i's students will positively impact the health of our keiki and the development of Hawai'i sustainable food systems.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2774.

Mahalo,



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

ⁱ Founded in 2010, the **Hawai'i Farm to School Hui** is a statewide network comprising five island-level networks, community organizations, schools, state agencies, and other food systems stakeholders with a collective mission to strengthen Hawaii's farm to school movement. The three pillars of successful farm to school programs are 1) school gardens and on-campus farms, 2) education, and 3) school food improvements through local procurement.

HB-2774-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:01:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaanohiokala Kalama-Macomber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Ka‘anohiokalā Kalama-Macomber and I testifying in **SUPPORT** of HB2774 HD2 to prioritize local agriculture and strengthening local food systems for Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i thrived for many generations because of its ability to uplift the many gifts of abundance that this unique place has to offer. By allowing communities to partner with their local food sources, we open up the door for future generations to have a greater sense of kuleana to this place. If we want to have Hawai‘i to still call home 7 generations from now, we must celebrate and honor its gifts today. Not only will an increased procurement of locally grown and raised foods positively impact the physical health of our keiki and the development of sustainable food systems, but it will also strengthen a sense of belonging for all of the people of Hawai‘i to this place. I humbly urge the committee to **PASS** HB2774 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

na‘u me ka ha‘aha‘a,

na Ka‘anohiokalā Kalama-Macomber

HB-2774-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:38:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lillian Coltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clarify what local food targets are required by different departments and that accurate reports are submitted in timely manner.

HB-2774-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:59:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2024 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2774 which furthers Hawai'i's goal of getting more Hawai'i grown foods in our schools.