

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 01/31/2023
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 0250 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 250.

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

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

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

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

JANUARY 31, 2023
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309

HOUSE BILL NO. 250
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Chairperson Woodson and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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





LATE

HB250
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT
House Committee on Education

January 31, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 309

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB250, which would require the Department of Education to adopt rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products. **OHA offers its recommendation to enhance this measure by incorporating an ‘ai pono (healthy eating/lifestyle) requirement as an instrument to further address disparities faced by Native Hawaiian students in the State’s institution of education.**

Nā Pou Kihī (“The Corner Posts”) is a Hawaiian framework for achieving social and health equity¹ at a time of ever-worsening health inequities and disparities faced by the Native Hawaiian people.² Native Hawaiians are afflicted with chronic disease at a rate three times higher and a decade earlier than the general population of Hawai‘i.³ Native Hawaiians have the shortest life expectancy in their own homeland.⁴ The four interconnected corner posts of Nā Pou Kihī are Ke Ao ‘Ōiwi (Indigenous Cultural Space), Ka Mālama ‘Āina (Environmental Stewardship), Ka Wai Ola (Social Justice), and Ka ‘Ai Pono (healthy consumption) – together, they support an interwoven protective canopy over a collection of ideals that give hope to a people in great need; ideals, like food sovereignty, cultural relevance, and increased access to our traditional foods.

OHA is the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians.⁵ OHA supports the thrust of this measure to “facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawai‘i farmers, ranchers, and food producers[, while allowing] school complexes to regionalize their menus” and offers this recommendation to advance this measure even further as a mechanism of much needed socio-economic change

¹ Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p.16.

² Id. at 9.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ HRS §10-3.



HB250
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT
House Committee on Education

for our food producers, our schools, and the countless keiki, whose health and well-being is significantly impacted by the food they consume. OHA recommends that this measure's proposed amendment be amended to include "traditional agricultural products" and to read:

"§302A - Food program; procurement; geographic preference; exemption. (a) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural, and traditional agricultural products.

For Native Hawaiian health and well-being to vastly improve, positive systemic change must occur, because the systems that have negatively impacted our existence, are often beyond our sole control. Even smallest adjustments have the capacity to open pathways for monumental change.

OHA appreciates this opportunity to **support with amendments HB250 and asks the Legislature to consider our recommendation for the betterment of the health and well-being of the Native Hawaiian people.** Mahalo nui loa.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Tuesday, January 31, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

Because the State purchases so much food for the daily operations of public schools, it is prudent and essential for government to spend its limited resources within the State to ensure that these funds are circulated through local businesses and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated the need for a bill like this. Our over-reliance on tourism has weakened our ability to respond to unforeseen economic downturns. The only way for us to protect ourselves from the next global pandemic or catastrophe is for Hawaii to diversify its economic base and become more self-sufficient. And for us to do that, we need to utilize more locally-grown food.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:54:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Department of Education has been struggling to implement this State Mandate for many years. HB 250 creates a roadmap to administer this needed program including Geographic Preference that will be extremely beneficial to all of Hawaii's school age children and Hawaii's growers big and small. Without clear procurement rules, this program has faltered and progress made initially has fallen to the wayside. We need this program for so many reasons, healthy Keiki, healthy farming families, healthy communities will be the outcome. The School Food Program that incorporates locally grown foods is a win-win for all. Please take the needed steps to establish the rules for procurement and services, and exempt the food program from Hawaii's Public Procurement Codes.

Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather

Director Ka Ohana O Na Pua



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waialua, HI 96791-9501
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www.NSEVP.org

January 29, 2023

House Committee on Education
Tuesday January 31, 2023, 2:00 pm

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

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Committees:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kevin M Kelly, President

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:53:48 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:30:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Oba	HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou Senate Education Committee Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB250 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT. Food is a high impact environmental concern due to its use of energy, water, and land resources, for its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, and its impacts on water quality, soil health, and ecosystems. Food system awareness is a significant part of environmental awareness.

Implementing the farm to schools program (FTSP) is an opportunity to increase markets for local farmers, support the health of our communities, and educate the next generation on the importance of our food systems. It encourages healthy eating behaviors by providing more access to fruits and vegetables and provides students opportunities to learn about our local food system including topics of agriculture, nutrition, and the origins of their food. Engaging youth in environmental awareness has been shown to impact students' awareness and behavior as adults. Engaging students in learning about our local food systems could do the same by encouraging food system awareness and lifelong healthy habits as adults.

We want Hawai'i's farm to school program to be a success. This bill action on procurement is a positive step. According to a study of the state of Michigan, procurement regulations was one of the barriers to successful FTSP implementation. Please support HB250 to help fully implement Hawai'i's farm to school program.

Mahalo,

Cara Oba
on behalf of the HECA Carbon Sequestration Task Force



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:38:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Climate Future Forum	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Education Committee:

On behalf of the Climate Future Forum, I'm writing to you in strong support of HB250. On December 3rd, 2022, the Climate Future Forum was held at the Hawai'i State Capitol. The event included about 80 youth, eight state legislatures 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 centers around improving Farm to School programs. Therefore, the Climate Future Forum strongly supports this bill for the following reasons:

- improve student access to healthy, local foods (especially fresh fruit and vegetables) to improve nutrition
- expose students to healthy behaviors
- build student awareness of food systems and connection to food (various learning opportunities based around food)
- contribute to the local agricultural industry (new markets, more stability, more jobs)
- reduce food miles and associated greenhouse gas emissions

Please pass this bill with any needed amendments.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein

Founding member of Climate Future Forum

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:46:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott lacasse	Grow Some Good	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Grow Some Good, a 501(c)(3) Farm to School organization located on Maui and operating throughout Maui County in 20+ schools, we wholeheartedly support HB250 for the following reasons:

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

Our flagship Farm to School Program is dedicated to creating hands-on, outdoor learning experiences in school gardens that cultivate curiosity about natural life cycles, connect students to their food sources and inspire better nutrition choices. To this end, GSG has helped establish, maintain, and staff school gardens throughout Maui County and provided resources and curriculum support through community partnerships in agriculture, science, food education, and nutrition for nearly 15 years.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott Lacasse

Executive Director @ Grow Some Good



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

January 31, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 250
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten, and Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



January 30, 2023

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Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the Education Committee:

Re: SUPPORT FOR HB 250, Relating to Farm to School Procurement

Aloha, my name is Herb Lee, Jr. and I am the CEO of the Pacific American Foundation. Established in 1993, the Pacific American Foundation (PAF) is a national 501c (3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with the mission to “improve the lives of Pacific Americans through service with dignity, courage, humility, and competence.”

We fully support HB 250 for the following reasons:

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

PAF has been working with our public schools for 30 years and are part of a network of organizations on the windward side that are beginning to produce locally grown foods for consumption.

Mahalo for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Herb Lee, Jr.
President & CEO



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

January 29, 2023

To: Chair Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Lisa Marten and the House Committee on Education

Subject: **HB250**, Relating to Farm to School Procurement

I, Kahealani Acosta, testify **IN SUPPORT** of **HB250**, relating to farm to school procurement.

According to the [National Farm to School Network](#), "*Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings. Students gain access to healthy, local foods as well as education opportunities such as school gardens, cooking lessons and farm field trips. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.*" The current bill, HB250, supports local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai'i, with geographic preferences for local farmers. The implications of this bill extend beyond locally sourced nutrition, such as a reduction in carbon footprint from imported foods.

Additionally, Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030. Local farmers and distributors need procurement rules in order to produce and deliver adequate harvests to fulfill this goal. Eating unprocessed, locally grown, and locally raised food products has a positive impact on the health of school children and youth, while simultaneously stimulating and supporting Hawai'i's local agricultural economy. As a farmer and advocate for sustainable and resilient food systems, I urge the committee to pass HB250. I would like to thank Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, for considering the comments made herein.

Me ka mahalo nui (with deep gratitude),
Kahealani & the Food+ Interns
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

Aloha e Chair Woodson and Vice Chair Marten,

We are Hawai'i Food+ Policy, a group of students and recent graduates from the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program who are striving to keep the community updated on food and agriculture policy in Hawai'i. Under the direction of Purple Mai'a and independent from the University of Hawai'i, we specifically endorse and advocate for legislative measures that support the development of a more sustainable and resilient food system. Thus, we are writing respectfully **IN SUPPORT** of **HB250**, and urge the EDN Committee to pass this bill. **HB250** seeks to procure goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools. This measure will provide locally grown foods that are healthy and nutritious for future generations.

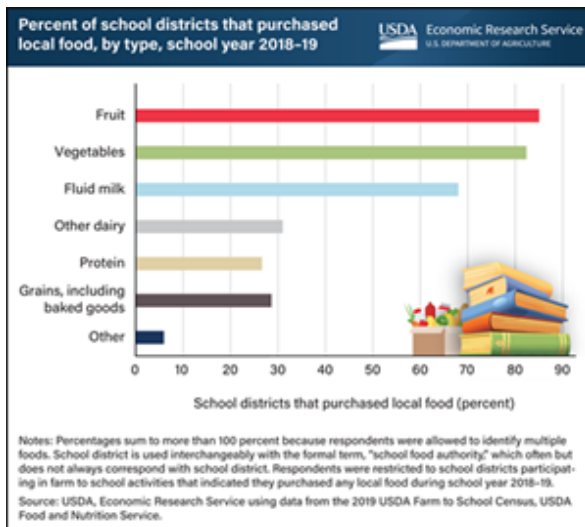
I am testifying **IN FAVOR** of **HB250** because it is important to invest in our keiki by promoting good eating habits. Our nation's bad eating habits, and accompanying health concerns, begin with the way we feed our children. Increasing the availability of fresh produce and other locally sourced food

alternatives in school cafeterias, and providing chances for farm-to-school initiatives provide keiki the means to take control of their own nutritional health benefits in the long run.

The movement of schools all over the nation have pushed towards creating a variety of locally grown options for the students to eat. In the State of Hawai'i, we should be following suit.

Me ke aloha,
The [Food+ Policy](#) Team

#FIXOURFOODSYSTEM



References

Fruits and vegetables top the list of locally produced foods purchased by U.S. school districts. (n.d). <[Webpage](#)>

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:36:47 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Seegal	Hawaii Public Health Institute - Farm to School Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I work as a newly hired Farm to Early Childhood Education (ECE) Coordinator for the statewide Farm to School Hui. As part of my job, I am in regular conversation with preschool providers, administrators, ohana (including kūpuna), farm hub directors, food producers and farmers - and by virtue of this work, have a special vantage point on the importance of the mandates included in the HB250 law.

The geographic preferences written into this law are vital for ensuring local food production and consumption in our state. It is a major step toward weaning ourselves from dependence on imported food and can boost local food systems in myriad economic and cultural manners.

Additionally, in order for the requirements of Act 175 to be satisfied, for HIDOE to procure at least 30% of its food for keiki from local sources by 2030, HB250 is essential legislation that gives the mechanism for that goal to be attained. Without it, "local" could be defined without honoring geographic proximity and, therefore, actual local, place-based food production.

Lastly, as an educator and advocate, it is clear to see the need for healthy, fresh and sustainably raised/prepared food sources for our keiki. Local food based on geographic preferences inherently means less processed food, fresher food, and food that is borne out of our island's traditions and hard work.

I implore you to pass this Bill and demonstrate leadership in returning food sovereignty and security to the farmers, tradition-keepers, and families of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

David Seegal

Farm to ECE Coordinator

Hawai'i Public Health Institute



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

HB250
RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

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.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB250** which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the purchasing of locally sourced food, and Hawaii's ranchers are ready to contribute to that by providing local beef, a nutritious protein. Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. This includes high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins. These nutrients are especially important for the development of young, active growing children.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



January 30, 2023

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Tuesday, January 31
2:00pm
via Video Conference



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

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chamber of SUSTAINABLE Commerce in STRONG SUPPORT of HB250. As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing HB250, relating to farm to school procurement. This bill would economically uplift our local farmers, nutritionally benefit our students and replenish our state budget.

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

**Hawaii
Legislative
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Department of Pediatrics

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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: January 30, 2023

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

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

Hrg: Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 2:00 PM, Conf Rm 309

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

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide STRONG SUPPORT for HB 250, which requires the Department of Education (HIDOE) to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

Additionally, this bill requires the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) to post all the contracts rewarded for local food procurement on its website. This requirement is critical in determining the department's compliance with Act 175. 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 s Hawai'i sustainable food systems.

Geographic preferences support local farmers.

This bill will enable school complexes to regionalize their meals, supporting local food producers and suppliers on each island. Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030. According to the report they submitted to this body last month, they are currently at 6.2%.ⁱⁱⁱ

HIDOE cannot reach the 30% goal alone. This project needs to have statewide collaboration to achieve success. Local farmers and

distributors need procurement rules to produce adequate harvests to deliver the volume of locally grown and raised foods to serve the 130,000 plus meals that the HIDOE serves daily.

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

Mahalo,



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

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

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/DOE_REPORT2023_FarmtoSchoolMeals.pdf



House Committee on Education

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

Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee,

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

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

By focusing on local relationships that "regionalize the menu," children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from.

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

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

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

Please support HB250 and prioritize quality local food in schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 1:10:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Kosmas	Mala'ai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We can't expect local food procurement to happen unless we have a realistic roadmap to get there. DOE is dragging their feet because they don't think it's their responsibility to take on local food procurement, but it is going to take all of our county and state departments to achieve our goal of 30% local food by 2030. Here are 3 reasons why:

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

We need to continue momentum in this arena and we need to dedicate resources to people and systems that will support farmers, the county, the DOE and all stakeholders to be moving forward together.



To: The House Committee on Education (EDN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 2:00 pm

In strong support of HB250

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, 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 **strongly support HB250** which requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

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

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

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 1:40:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on [Education](#),

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 member and supporters, we stand in strong support of HB250 that requires the Hawaii Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

This legislation is important because it will help in building farm to school connections that can improve student access to healthy, local foods, provide numerous public health benefits, and contribute to the local agricultural industry.

More importantly this legislation will help in facilitating an increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers which will be a win, win all the way around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate!

Please pass HB250.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, Hawaii Statewide Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

Chair Justin Woodson
House Committee on Education

House Bill No. 250 -- *Relating to Farm to School Procurement*

Hearing date: Tuesday, January 31

Hearing time: 2:00 P.M.

Hearing location: Conference Room 309 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee,

Aloha kākou, my name is Leanne Kami. I was born and raised in Puna on Hawai'i island and now work in Hilo as a strategy consultant for Kamehameha Schools, focused on sustainable food system development in Hawai'i. I also own and manage Kohana Family Farms, a small organic farm in Pana'ewa. I am writing this letter in my personal capacity as a farmer and member of the Farm to School Hui Mission Circle.

I support HB 250, which requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown, and locally raised food products. HB 250 supports local food production, suppliers, and sustainable food systems in Hawai'i.

Act 175 requires that the Department of Education procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by the year 2030, but local farmers and distributors need procurement rules in order to produce and deliver adequate harvests to fulfill this goal.

Eating unprocessed locally grown, and locally raised food products have positive impacts on the long-term health of school children. Local food is higher in nutrients due to shorter travel times between harvest and consumption and also promotes a safer food supply by reducing opportunities for contamination along the supply chain.

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

Mahalo,

Leanne Kami
Kohana Family Farms
Leanneokamoto@hotmail.com
126 Awa Street, Hilo HI 96720

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 6:14:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Datta	Adaptations Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's support our farmers and our students.



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

Jan 30, 2022

To: Chair Justin H Woodson & House Committee on Education

Subject: **HB 250**, Relating To Farm to School Procurement

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislators,

As a Food Policy Advocacy group, we are presenting collective testimony on behalf of small-scale farmers, food system students, & local community members. We agree with the language in section 1 that “building farm to school connections can improve student access to healthy, local foods, provide numerous public health benefits, and contribute to the local agricultural industry”. Our schools can be used as a tool to facilitate the adoption of local taste and local/seasonal crops into our communities while improving our health and supporting our farmers. This is a step in the right direction which could be facilitated through supporting this bill.

We also support making the process transparent as worded in Section 2 of this bill in the second point of the proposed wording which outlines “posting the following information on the departments website” and then providing a list of some of the information that would be posted. This transparency should be present so that the community members can be informed. This will

allow for the most efficacious public engagement and discourse as the bill is realized and put to practice.

For these explicit reasons and others, we support House Bill 250 and urge you to support House Bill 250 as well.

Mahalo,

Tierra Bartolotti & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
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Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai



Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. HFUU strongly supports HB250. Our state is home to a rich and diverse agricultural industry, but too often our local products are overlooked in favor of cheaper, imported options. By requiring the Department of Education to establish rules for procuring locally grown and raised food products, we can help ensure that our schools are supporting the local economy and providing students with the freshest and healthiest food possible.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaipo S.K. Kekona".



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

LATE

January 31, 2023

Hawai'i SEED in strong SUPPORT of HB250

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten and House Department of Education Committee Members,

Hawai'i SEED supports this important measure for the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

The keiki are our future. Teach and feed them well. Eating food from the 'aina creates connection to the place of their home.

Mahalo,

Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai'i SEED
PO Box 1177
Koloa, HI 96756
(808) 651-1332



HAWAII APPLESEED
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LATE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Comments for H.B. 250 – Relating to Farm to School Procurement
House Committee on Education
Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 2:00PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for **H.B. 250**, which would require the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) to adopt procurement rules relating to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised agricultural products.

The 2021 Hawai‘i legislature passed Act 176, SLH 2021, which establishes a farm to school program in HIDOE. House Bill 250 attempts to address a significant concern around achieving the goals set forth in this legislation, by requiring that the Department take advantage of what’s known as a “geographic preference” to solicit bids for ingredients for their school meal programs.

The HIDOE breakfast and lunch menus are developed a year in advance to allow time for procurement, which can be a lengthy process. However, there is only one statewide menu for each program, which does not take into account the many regional and cultural food preferences of the children that the HIDOE serves. As a result, the Department currently only solicits and awards bids on a statewide basis to accommodate the statewide menu, precluding the opportunity to source from smaller local farms and vendors, who may not have the ability to supply ingredients for the entire statewide school system.

Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberation of H.B. 250. Hawai‘i Appleseed is in full support of the HIDOE farm to school program, as we believe in the importance of good quality food served through our federally-subsidized nutrition programs. We sincerely believe that this legislation will help achieve the intended effect of reaching the state’s farm to school goals.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 9:53:06 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support fresh local food for our schools. And please support our farmers.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:19:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
j Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

I firmly believe anything to IMPROVE the food eaten by people in HAWAII "children/young adults" especially is a gift from God.

In the first place a high percentage of population does not eat that Healthy we have land to grow GOOD healthy food we should be doing it at ever increasing rate. Grow Organic and clean food for our Ohana, Not spraying Roundup and its cousins all over the land to poison our land for ever possibly. WE could have clean food planted on every school in Hawaii on actual School property. Good clean food makes for a Clean/Sharp body-mind!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:45:38 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson and Honorable Representatives,

I am a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School and strongly support HB250 which would help the DOE source locally grown nutritious food and celebrate the many cultures in Hawaii by locally sourcing food. Our keiki deserve to eat locally grown nutritious food. We currently import 93% of our food and to begin becoming more sustainable and keeping money in a circular economy we need to show our keiki what it looks like to eat nutritious locally grown food.

Mahalo,
Fitz

John Fitzpatrick

7th Grade Integrated Science Educator

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:52:22 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB250....I think the nutritional content of school meals would be benefited. Mahalo, Henri Etta Schmitz, Paauilo 96776

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:03:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Keoni DeFranco, Waimanalo

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:11:32 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:09:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our kids need to eat local. Please pass this bill!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Jansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support having local foods in local schools. This will help support the increased production of locally grown foods and provide better nutrition to the kids of Hawai'i.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:35:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB250 for the Farm to School Procurement. I approve that it requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawai'i products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawai'i public procurement code.

Please support HB250.

Aloha & mahalo,

Mary Lu
Kelley

Lawai Kauai, HI

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:38:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm writing in support of HB250.

I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom and I think that the Department of Education should establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawai'i products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawai'i public procurement code.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:58:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Sam Peralta, Wailuku

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 3:51:37 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tula roderick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **support** for HB250.

As a resident of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill will have a positive impact on the local agriculture industry. By giving preference to locally grown and raised food products, we can help support the hardworking farmers in our state and keep our communities thriving.

In addition, incorporating local food products into school menus has numerous benefits for our students. Not only does it provide fresh and nutritious options, but it also teaches them the importance of supporting local businesses and eating seasonally. This can have long-term impacts on their health and the health of our community as a whole.

I strongly urge you to support this bill and help promote a healthier and more sustainable future for Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tulabelle Roderick

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:17:23 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support local choices for our keiki! As someone who grew up in public school eating free lunches, it would have been wonderful and much more healthy for me to be served local options.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:33:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hubbard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill can help our state and our future generations economically and through health and well-being. Please pass HB250

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:55:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reagan Cline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong **support** of HB250 prioritizing local procurement for school lunches when available. This policy has the potential to grow our local food economy while feeding Hawaii's kids fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods. Insitutional purchasing can provide farmers with a secure market that allows them to scale up production to meet demand from institutional partners.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:02:06 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl Burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

"Requires the department of education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. "

Please look into how the Federal \$\$ might affect the DOE's process on this requirement. We NEED the schools to have access to locally grown and raised foods, always

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:28:49 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I support HB250.

Mahalo for your time,

Lisa DeSantis, Waimea, Hawai‘i Island

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:41:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable House Members,

I respectfully encourage you to support HB250, Farm to School Procurement. This is a win win for our keikis and farmers.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:43:04 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Cender	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, HB250, because it requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:21:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

My name is Sara DiGrazia. I am a kama'aina resident of Kailua and mom of two precious children who speak frankly of not having children due to their *supported* fears regarding climate change. Thank you for your attention to HB 250 and considering creating more links for local food to get to our children's mouths at school thereby further decreasing our State's need for food being shipped her utilizing fossil fuels! Please think next seven generations on behalf of all of us.

Thank you,

Sara DiGrazia, Psy.D.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 12:31:07 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering this bill!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:11:44 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbey Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support helping feed our kids locally sourced food! This bill will help children eat healthier, aid in counteracting the obesity epidemic while supporting the local economy. This is a win win for us in Hawai'i. With a year round growing season there is no reason we should be importing produce.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:13:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev. Samuel L Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill that gives the DOE the authority to coordinate local food production to the tables at our schools. This moves the needle towards further food sustainability here on the islands.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:55:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Strong Support for HB250.

JN Makawao

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:28:25 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This idea heads in the right direction and must be carefully crafted to avoid unintended consequences and abuse. It is easy to imagine that food purchases could easily be directed in an undesirable direction, which must be prevented.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:53:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I remember as a child I never liked the school breakfast/wiki wiki/lunch but it was our only choice for food. I never liked tomatoes until my Mom grew them. Fruits and veggies that are flown here are never as good. No flavor after being frozen.

I know we have a great opportunity to keep our keiki healthy and smarty by giving them these choices. Being able to see and help grow the food being served at the schools is an important step towards our future.

Please give the keiki and the chef's that cook for them the ability to give more healthy balanced meals instead of eating pizza out of a bag.

Mahalo!

Arika Hultquist

Lahaina Resident

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:55:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to offer students REAL food which is fresh and healthy. Many children don't even know what real food is nowadays.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:07:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & EDN Committee,

I support HB250 because it builds farm to school connections can improve student access to healthy, local foods, provide numerous public health benefits, and contribute to the local agricultural economy and community. There have been a number of reports on the poor quality of school lunches. This bill assist in putting locally grown, fresh, nutritious lunches on the table.

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

It would also facilitate the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate!

One thing farmers need is assured markets for their produce. Local schools can provide the steady and consistent markets.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, 96740

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:17:59 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Please support this. As a parent I am in strong support of my keiki eating **LOCALLY GROWN FOOD AS MUCH AS IS POSSIBLE!** Not only is this one of the best options for their health and the health of the planet, but it encourages connection to local culture and supports the local economy.

Mahalo nui,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:38:28 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Best for the environment to have locally produced least processed food

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:57:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Millikan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support of HB250

Date: Jan. 29, 2023

To: EDN

From: Debbie Millikan

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB250 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

Hearing: Jan 31, 2023, 2pm

Dear Chair Woodsen and Vice Chair Marten,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB250 to require the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products.

As an educator, scientist, mother and advocate for children's health and education, we need a robust farm to school program in HI-DOE. Because of Act 175, the DOE must procure 30% of the food it serves from local sources by 2030. That can only happen when we change the systems that are preventing locally grown food from being incorporated into our school lunch-by giving autonomy at the complex area level and changing the procurement rules to help make this possible. This bill supports local farmers AND supports our keiki- a win-win for everyone!.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Debbie Millikan

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 9:02:34 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:58:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 11:20:47 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support HB250 Public School Food Programs; Farm to School; Department of Education; Geographic Preference; Locally Grown Food.

This is a win for student health, local agriculture and the local economy, and the climate.

mahalo, Cory Harden

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 1:57:46 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you have a child in the public school system you know the crap they eat. The food provided is often heavily processed and disgusting. Facilitating the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate. I support HB250

Mahalo

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:07:45 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mark Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Jason Mark Alexander, Mānoa

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 5:35:39 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:30:02 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Melamed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need the restoration and restocking of our loko‘ia (fishponds) in Hawaii.

Loko i‘a are important components of the ahupua‘a (traditional land stewardship framework) that contribute to a healthy and robust food system. They are unique aquaculture systems that exist throughout Hawai‘i, and were developed to optimize natural patterns of watersheds, nutrient cycles, and fish biology.

Loko‘ia (fishponds) play an important role in Hawaiian cultural practices, have an ecologically important role in watersheds, and could significantly contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security goals.

Mahalo,

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:48:15 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important legislation, HB250, in order to procure a way to sustain this state's unique situation. Support HB250 to administrer food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for UNPROCESSED and LOCALLY RAISED food products.

Thank you for your support!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:28:19 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha this is Joan Gannon from South Kona asking you to vote for HB250. I strongly support the DOE establish rules for procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools. Fresh food from local farmers is healthy for our children, helps the local economy and prevents dependency on fossil fuels for shipping in food. Thank you. Joan

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:36:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support local foods for local schools. This is a sustainably minded effort to become for self sufficient in our food supply and support local farmers and well as the health of our Keiki. Please support this Bill

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:54:59 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:11:15 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Sarasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee,

I am testifying **in strong support of H.B. 250.**

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

I grew up in Florida, predominantly eating frozen pizza when I ate at the school cafeteria. Children deserve access to healthy and fresh options. We should not nourish them with food that is frozen, packaged in plastic, and shipped thousands of miles from the mainland. Our local farmers will also benefit from this bill because the increased business will allow them to scale their operations and better compete with the pricing of major retailers. These major retailers benefit from economies of scale without paying the environmental costs of their shipping and packaging disposal; our communities absorb that cost.

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

Mahalo,

Emily Sarasa, esarasa@Hawaii.edu

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:29:48 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Deets	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I write in support of HB250. I support kids eating healthier meals in school, and the meals we provide being more sustainable.

EDN testimony

From: Josette Friedl
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:55 PM
To: EDN testimony; Maki'ilei Ishihara
Subject: FW: Support for HB250

Please process this testimony manually into the Green Leaf. It came in when the website was down & they emailed the webmaster directly.

Mahalo.

From: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 12:37 PM
To: Josette Friedl <josette@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Support for HB250

From: Monica Catalano <monica.catalano@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2023 7:43 AM
To: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support for HB250

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my support for the procurement of goods and services from the farm to public school food programs. This move toward sustainability for the land and people is the way forward. Even though I am not a resident of Hawai'i, I feel so much love for the people and lands of the Hawaiian islands. This is why I am writing to you today from Richmond California.

Thank you for listening and take care,
Monica Catalano
Richmond, CA, USA

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:13:50 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Kuhr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because of the following

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

Dear members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB250.

I am a young adult living on O'ahu, raised on Big Island, and currently a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Facilitating and increasing locally grown food from Hawai'i farmers is extremely important. Supporting our community through local food grown in local soil, which therein benefits local soil, is of paramount importance to our health, especially the health of Hawai'i's keiki. Studies have found that we would have to eat 25 apples in order to receive the same amount of nutrients from 1 single apple in 1914. This is because of mass industrialized food which is grown in nutrient-depleted soil. For the health of the 'aina and the health of the people, we must support and eat from local farms. Many people do not know how to do this. By creating a connection between local food and our children at school, children will be more likely to understand that local food is available to them and where to find it. Further, this will provide a great economic benefit to our local farms, which need and deserve this more than large-scale farms who have no sense of who we are nor why food or soil health matter. Small, local farms are facing an economic crisis nationwide, and need our support just as much as we need theirs.

This is of utmost importance globally right now, and the Committee would be taking a great step in supporting this HB250.

Mahalo,
Holly Crawford, hollyc8@hawaii.edu

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:52:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TammyLynn Wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no, I am humbly reaching out in my support of this bill. I am a grandmother of 2 beautiful grand children who attends public school system. It concerns me about the nutrition that the school provides my grandchildren - It was an idea 15 years ago that as a parent we discussed this for schools to reach out to local farmers who were able to support "locally grown" . Having students farm under the supervision of their agriculture instructor would be amazing. The student would benefit as they would be able to consume healthy fresh food as well as learning to farm and to become self - sufficient in growing and producing food. Farming is a part of Hawaii's cultural and traditions of farming should be passed down to future generations.

Please support our keiki - mahalo!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:55:24 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hauʻoli Kahaleuahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must support a process where small farmers in our communities can sell fresh, healthy, nutritious foods to school cafeterias. This can be a stable market for our small farmers and of course increase access to and consumption of locally-grown, unprocessed foods. We should also be supporting the Garden to Cafeteria Program across Hawai'i so that schools, students, teachers, and garden leads can cultivate, grow, harvest, and maybe even process these foods right on campuses, and then these foods can be used directly in school cafeteria meals.

There is a ripe opportunity here to actually support our small, local farmers. Make the procurement process work for them, and for our school cafeteria staff.

Mahalo.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:38:03 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ming Wei Koh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this Bill. It helps to meet the goals of Act 175.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:31:35 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

- Facilitating the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate!

- Let's stop relying on imported food and become more self-reliant!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:31:43 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

I strongly support the use of locally grown food in schools. Besides supporting our local farmers, this gives the children more nutrition = brain power... it is a win win!

Please support HB 250.

Mahalo,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, Kauai

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:47:42 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Education Relating to HB 250

Aloha e Chair Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Lisa Marten, and members of the committee:

HB250 requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Thus, it allows for geographic preferences that will result in an increase in locally grown fresh foods, particularly within island complex areas, thus reducing transportation costs and increasing nutritional content and sustainable food systems. Finally, the passing of the bill and consequent implementation of the bill will move forward the goals of Act 175 of 30% locally grown foods for our haumana by 2030.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Marian Huff, Hawaii Farm to School Hui - Member Emeritus

EDN testimony

From: Josette Friedl
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 10:39 AM
To: EDN testimony; Maki'ilei Ishihara
Subject: FW: HB250

Sorry, here's another testimony submitted to webmaster. Please process manually.

From: John Latkiewicz <johnlatkiewicz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 10:30 AM
To: webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: HB250

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

HB250 – Farm to School Procurement

Requires the Department of Education to establish rules for the procurement of goods and services related to the administration of food programs at public schools that incorporate a geographic preference for unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products. Except for the provision relating to Hawai'i products, exempts the department's food program from the Hawai'i public procurement code.

Please support this bill. Your future voters will appreciate it.

John Latkiewicz

Testimony in support of: H.B. NO. 250 RELATING TO FARM TO SCHOOL PROCUREMENT.

January 30, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

We, as students of Mililani High School’s Sustainable Food Systems Class, would like to submit testimony in support of H.B. NO. 250 Relating to Farm to School Procurement.

We believe the passage of H.B. NO. 250 in the 32nd Hawaii State Legislature will help change the following things for our state:

Name or Initials, Graduating Year	Testimony
Ceejay Jaramillo 2024	H.B. NO. 250 provides local people security when a pandemic hits or a disaster that affects the Nation.
Chayce Correa 2023	I believe that the H.B. No. 250 will offer food security for those in schools in Hawai’i. They will help offer those on the island to become less reliant on imported foods. As we can’t sustain more than 3 days without the imports of these foods. Therefore, with this new bill, it will encourage the production of produce from Hawai’i in turn allowing Hawai’i to become less reliant on these imported goods.
Mason Yamasaki % 2023	H.B. NO. 250 provides a community supporting, cleaner food standard for public schools and its students/staff. If public school food gets sourced by local businesses we will be able to get rid of heavily processed foods which come frozen and mass produced. This bill will be very beneficial to students like us who experience odd looking or even odd tasting foods the schools currently serve to us students. With local grown foods and support from our schools we as students will have access to better, healthier, and more nutritious meals to help us continue through our days of education.
Jeferson Espiritu 2023	H.B. No. 250 provides an economical benefit in various different ways such as giving farmers a long-term revenue which will help the production of goods and services.
Drake Mullikin 2023	I believe that H.B No. 250 will provide economic benefits, increased local food

	procurement, and increase meal participation.
Tenzin Kano 2024	H.B. No. 250 provides a greater benefit for the community and the economic benefits by giving locally grown food items because it helps health-wise and cost-wise compared to processed/frozen and shipped foods like we have now.
Emily Anzai 2023	H.B. No.250 I think that it will improve student's health by giving access to healthier and more locally grown foods that are organic.
Akela Keaunui-Drane 2025	H.B. No.250 I think that this will positively affect the local economy and make it less expensive to transport most vegetables due to us no longer needing to export those goods from the mainland.
Marlo Britton	H.B No.250 this will benefit cost and be much more healthier for students and farmers will benefit from it.
Ty Wakahiro 2023	If passed, H.B. No. 250 will help to ensure Hawaii is taking the necessary steps to provide secure sources of food for its people. The rules proposed in the bill will help develop Hawaii's agriculture industry.
Arie Yamasaki (% 2024) :-)	<p>For an economy so heavily reliant on exports, having a sustainable agriculture not only benefits our domestic markets and our farmers but our schools. I'm a student who hasn't had school lunch since 6th grade just because of how unappetizing the foods are from processed cheese to bread that's almost cardboard-like. That isn't the fault of any cafeteria worker but more so the reflection of our systems. We could have fresh and fulfilling meals for our students if we invested more time and money in our local farms and our school cafeterias.</p> <p>It also develops our state's economy. A decrease in exports coming from the mainland cuts down prices exponentially. If we're so reliant on a system that feeds from other sources what would that mean for another global crisis like COVID? Even if it's food grown on another island, sustainability and domestic food security is possible. Our land can support the growth of food and in fact bolsters it. There are already farms and fields out there. If more government funding can be invested into activities such as these, a future where our markets are filled with locally sourced foods aren't far off.</p>

	Education is important within our schools, yes, but development is equally as crucial to keep our students, and our state systems, happy and healthy.
McCully Boksanski	H.B. No. 250 if passed will help support economic growth opportunities for individual farmers. This will further support the food security in Hawaii by increasing the produce production in Hawaii which we need directly due to Hawaii only being able to sustain itself for 3 days in case of an emergency.
Nhi Le co2025	I think that passing H.B. No. 250 would be very beneficial to everyone it affects. Current school lunches to me are either a waste of money or gross if you have to get them, and having them made using locally grown food would help improve the general quality of school lunches in all aspects.
Logan Ching 2022	HB NO 250 would make the students actually eat the lunch which would improve efficiency in classes and less students starving throughout the day. It would also improve the cash flow to the government since yall love money so much. You guys can use the new cashflow to finish your rail project.
Kyler C. %2024	Passing H.B. No. 250 would cut costs on transporting food from the mainland to Hawaii, by importing food locally, you'd spend less money on making the school lunches. Or, you can spend the money to increase the amount of food on each plate, or the quality of food on each plate.
Lorayne Aguinaldo % 2023	I firmly believe House Bill No 250 is the future of sustainable living in Hawai'i. Hawai'i is very reliant on imported food, heavy in pesticides that can cause health complications and reduce the value of it. Having our public school kids consume such is setting them up to have poor health and may diminish their enjoyment of food. The children are the future of Hawai'i, and by giving them access to locally grown food, they build an understanding and respect the land they are living on. In this way, Hawai'i as a whole becomes more reliable in the local economy, local health, and community trust.
Arron Martinez % 2024	I believe passing H.B. No. 250 would allow Hawaii to move towards a more sustainable change. By growing food locally, it can cut down on how much we need to spend on transportation of food from the mainland, lower the cost of producing

	school lunches, and provide economic opportunities for farmers.
Cayde Alejandro % 2023	Passing H.B. NO. 250 will not only provide students with healthy, nutritious local foods; but this bill will also create agricultural and economic benefits. This local farm to school connection will lower the cost of school meal programs significantly because we'll rely less on exported foods. It will create a revenue system that benefits our local farmers and food producers because the money is going between them and our schools. Keeping the money being spent within the islands, this whole idea is supporting locals for a healthier and nutritious meal. This also will give students a connection with the food because they know that it's coming from local producers.
John Lumantas %	I wholeheartedly believe in the H.B 250 Bill because of its economical benefits supporting local farmers and local businesses. Not to mention, we would get a taste of some decent food in our highschool.
Addyson Elia % 2024	I believe passing the HB250 bill will benefit students, local businesses, and trying to move Hawaii into a lifestyle of sustainable living. Hawai'i is reliant on imported foods and pesticides, but Hawai'i can become a sustainable island by passing this bill. Students at school hate the lunches here, it's always gross colors, textures, and overall taste especially the fruit and vegetables. But implementing this bill will give kids a more enjoyable lunch by seeing fruits the color they are actually supposed to be.
Autemumu Silulu % 2023	I strongly believe that the passage of H.B. N.O 250 would benefit the citizens of Hawai'i. The keiki are the next generation and by implementing this in schools, we can ensure good health for our community. Also, we would be supporting our Hawai'i and going back to what it used to be. We have the resources to live off of the land and be fully sustainable but have not fully taken advantage of it as less than 3% of our food is currently locally sourced. This bill would help support our land and most importantly our people, the next generation.
Ray Russell % 2024	I believe that the passage of H.B. NO. 250 will be very beneficial towards schools giving access to more healthy foods for students.
Leo Gregg 2023	This would be good because people and kids would get good food. This is good

	because children need nutritious food to grow.
Elijah Barbadillo 2024	Passing the HB250 will help students or other people succeed as an example students are able to access healthy, local foods.
Shane Anzai 2024	Sure this could help out our students and community. It is important to keep the money within the islands and to not let it go back to the mainland, because that takes away our people's potential to improve our current system of farming and to refocus our priority to the people and not anyone else. This passage N0 250 is our first step to being more independent as a state and community.
Ronin Harris 2023	This could help out the future students and the community because of its economical benefits of supporting local farmers.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 1:55:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julenne Mounts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, As a parent of two growing teenagers on Maui, I am keenly aware of the cost of food and its value for health and well being. Our family has been on a journey to eat more local food products for many years but during the pandemic, we increased our speed tenfold. We now maintain our own vegetable garden and purchase the remainder of our produce from local farmers markets. Our groceries are down to only about 30% imported. I can tell you that eating unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products has kept us all healthier and vibrant. The foods we eat are alive and full of mana, not shriveled and half dead from traveling thousands of miles from the continent or South America. We are supporting our neighbors (and the local economy) by buying local farmers' produce, saving the earth the cost of all the fossil fuels burned to fuel the transport of imported foods, avoiding all the plastic packaging that imported foods travel in, and helping to create a more sustainable Hawaii. Its not always convenient or easy, and sometimes it is more expensive, but it is well worth it. Requiring the DOE to procure their food items from unprocessed locally grown and locally raised food products would greatly enhance the health and vibrancy of the students and staff and create a stronger learning environment for our keiki because their brains and bodies would be well nourished and more prepared to learn. School menus would have to be more flexible to seasonal availability of foods (a healthier way to eat), and staff may have to paid more to account for recreating menus according to what is available, but it can be done, and Hawaii's farming population has continued to grow so as to accommodate the demand. I hope the legislature will support this measure. Mahalo.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:13:19 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne Pico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly support the HB250. I believe this is a vital step toward schools across Hawai'i being able to serve healthier food to our keiki. They deserve better, and it has been a long time coming. At the same time, this would also help support smaller-scale local farmers.

Mahalo!

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:38:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Yaris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB250 is akamai- sustainable, supports our economy, fresher and healthier.

Please vote to pass HB250.

Jason Yaris

Makaweli HI 96769

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:09:57 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Facilitating the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate! Imported food and fuel extracts cash that would otherwise **circulate** within the state.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:11:21 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

On behalf of eat what you grow, feeding children home grown foods is the translation of breast milk.

Teach a child how to grow food, and he/she will not grow/go hungry.

Teach sustainability by living sustainable.

To DO what you say MUST be sustainable, it is not an educational aspect when teaching from a perspective that your actions does NOT align with your WORDS.

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:43:10 PM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB250. As others have mentioned, building farm to school connections can improve student access to healthy, local foods, provide numerous public health benefits, and contribute to the local agricultural industry. Facilitating the increase of locally grown and locally raised food products from Hawaii farmers, ranchers, and food producers is a win all around for our local economy, our keiki, and the climate!

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos
96816

LATE

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:26:10 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to both shift our food production and our food demand to local sources, so I am in support of this bill as it should help establish the systems needed to make it happen.

LATE

HB-250

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:31:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Kawika Nerpio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need sustainable ways of surviving in being the most remotest islands in the world