

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2083, HD3, SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2083, HD3, SD1 which requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Allows the Department of Education (DOE) to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year as an option under the school meals program. The Department supports the intent and offers comments.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HB2083 HD3 SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2024

10:15 a.m.

Conference Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2083 HD3 SD1, which seeks to enhance the health and well-being of Hawai‘i’s students by promoting locally sourced, nutritious, and environmentally conscious school meals. **OHA recognizes this legislation to be pivotal for the future of our youth and the sustainability of our local food systems.**

OHA believes that this measure provides the opportunity for the Department of Education to improve the quality of school meals while supporting local agricultural producers. Hawai‘i’s food system is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, viral pandemics, and military conflicts. According to research, Hawai‘i imports over 90% of its food¹, while also only having the sustained capacity to feed our population of 1.4 million for a week if imported supply chains are disrupted.² OHA recognizes that the foresight in establishing a target goal of 30% for locally sourced products in school meals, as initiated by Act 175, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2021, is commendable. Hawai‘i’s food system statistics underscore the importance of this goal. Currently, the average meat and dairy products served in schools often contain processed elements and additives, impacting the health outcomes of our students negatively. HB2083 HD3 SD1 suggests that schools can both improve meals while being an important part of local agriculture’s future.

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

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

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



HB2083 HD3 SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

OHA further understands and appreciates the concerns the Department raised previously on the time needed to implement effectively. We also would like to recognize the added funding and staffing that the Department may need to actualize these goals. We defer to the Department on costs and staffing needs and support additional funding and positions to ensure effective implementation.

This legislation represents a crucial investment in the future of Hawai‘i, and we are confident that its enactment will contribute significantly to the overall well-being of our community. By supporting HB2083 HD3 SD1, we are taking proactive steps to prioritize the health and well-being of our community members, foster sustainable agricultural practices, and instill values of environmental stewardship among our youth.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB2083 HD3 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



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

Date: 04/04/2024

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 2083, HD3, SD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments and concerns on HB 2083, HD3, SD1.

The Department appreciates this bill's intent to support the thirty percent by 2030 local food purchases goal, and its advocacy for the health benefits of a plant-based diet. However, the Department finds that this bill seeks to achieve two competing goals:

- Increasing locally sourced products under Act 175 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (2021); and
- Increasing plant-based meal options within our school menus as a way to promote health and be more environmentally conscious.

The bill suggests that establishing plant-based meal options once per week will ensure that our targeted goal pursuant to Act 175 (2021) will be met. However, to meet federal meal credit compliance statewide and maintain federal financial support, the Department must be able to procure plant-based meat/meat alternates or entrees that meet the definition of a locally sourced product to be able to serve a plant-based meal option.

The Department's School Food Services Branch (SFSB) is currently able to offer local plant-based

meal items such as salads and sides, but for plant-based proteins, the SFSB finds that Hawaii farms and vendors are not prepared to provide local plant-based meats/meat alternatives sufficient for meals at 257 schools statewide at this time. The SFSB's assessment of the capacity of local vendors, through its 2023 Request for Information campaign, found that Hawaii's agriculture and food manufacturing industry does not yet have large-scale vendors producing sufficient plant-based proteins made from local ingredients. To meet the demands of this bill by the school year 2025-2026, the unintended consequence of this measure may compel the Department to purchase plant-based manufactured products from the mainland to meet this bill's mandate and, therefore, reduce the demand for locally raised animal proteins that we currently purchase to pursue the thirty percent by 2030 local food purchases goal.

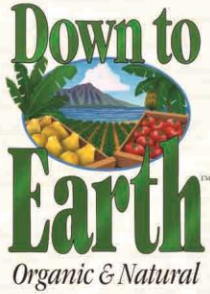
The Department appreciates the plant-based meal being defined, however, a plant-based meal option by definition would not serve both USDA Child Nutrition Requirements for reimbursable meals nor the targeted local purchase goals of Act 175 (2021) at this time. The Department has and will continue to work towards increasing plant-based meal options within the federal guidelines while prioritizing local food purchases in support of Act 175 (2021), sensitive to the environmental impact it may have.

The Department is concerned that the SD 1 version of this measure currently requires the Department to establish guidelines for the rewards recognition program. This would require additional resources for the Department to execute in order to provide for incentives and to solicit private individuals or organizations for donations.

Additionally, the Department must raise concerns that this bill's designed intentions to focus on one school runs into conflict with the Department's statewide functions and operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Love Life!



HB2083 HD3 SD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2024, 10:15am State Capitol

Aloha Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and Committee Members.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural testifies in support of HB2083 HD3 SD1.

Down to Earth Organic and Natural has six locations on Oahu and Maui. Since we opened in 1977, we have supported healthy lifestyles and preservation of the environment by selling local, fresh, organic and natural products, and by promoting a healthy, plant-based and vegetarian lifestyle.

We are strongly in support of HB2083 HD3 SD1 to establish a program to incentivize schools to reach the local farm to school meal goal and to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani High School. We would like to encourage the pilot program to be established at other DOE schools in the near future, and for the pilot program to extend beyond the current sunset date of 2026. We would also like to note that other public schools have successfully been offering plant-based meals in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Washington D.C. and New York.

A 2020 *Nutrients* systematic review concluded that consuming five or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables is linked to better mental health, particularly less depression. According to recent scientific studies, for example a 2021 study published in *Advances in Nutrition*, eating a vegetarian diet can help prevent and treat type 2 diabetes. Plant-based diets improve insulin sensitivity, help with weight management, and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. As you know, diabetes is a serious concern in Hawaii; over 11% of the population has been diagnosed with diabetes and an additional 39,000 are estimated to have the disease but have not been diagnosed yet (American Diabetes Association, 2021). Diagnosed diabetes costs an estimated \$1.5 billion in Hawaii each year.

The outcome of this legislation will be: keeping more funds in our economy, supporting our local farmers and producers, encouraging schools to use more fresh ingredients containing less preservatives in school lunches, and providing plant-based meal options to increase the fruit and vegetable component of our keiki's diets while adding to their understanding of how to eat healthy. Everyone can agree that getting more fruits and vegetables into the diets of our keiki is highly beneficial. By allowing our youth the opportunity to try plant-based meals (which they may not be exposed to at home), they are more likely to consider eating a diverse diet containing more fruits and vegetables for the betterment of their physical and mental health now and in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Alison Riggs
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Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

HB2083 HD3 SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Ranchers support the Farm to School program and want to see it prosper, for both the health of our students as well as the health of our economy. We encourage the increase in local food purchasing to support Hawaii's ranchers and farmers, keep funds in the state, and encourage a habit for our students to eat and support local agriculture.

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



Additional resources:

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

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

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

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

Nicole Galase

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Managing Director



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2083 HD3 SD1

Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Honorable Committee Members,

HAPA **supports HB2083 HD3 SD1** which requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of 30% of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Additionally it authorizes the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year.

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

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

Additionally, children will have greater access to more culturally appropriate and nutritious foods, such as kalo, sweet potatoes and others while becoming more connected to where their food comes from. Access to healthier foods will also support better learning outcomes.

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



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

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

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB2083 HD3 SD1.

Please support HB2083 HD3 SD1.

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

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, April 4, 2024
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
TIMESLOT: WAM

IN SUPPORT of H.B. No. 2083 HD3, SD1

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee on Ways and Means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

I, Ani Briley, am a supporter of HB2083.

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

I, Kacie Takehara, am a supporter of HB2083. I am currently a junior attending Mililani High School. I would love to see locally grown food served at my school. We will be less dependent on other corporations. Having locally grown food accessible to the students will be more beneficial to our health.

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

I, Camilla Isla, am a supporter of HB2083. As someone currently attending Mililani High School, I believe it would benefit students greatly if we had access to fresh produce in our meals for lunch. It would encourage healthier eating habits amongst our students, as well as boost the businesses of local farms located here in Hawai'i. Hopefully, you'll consider me and my peers' statements on behalf of this bill.

I, Talia Benson, am a supporter of HB2083. As someone with an allergy to red meat, I would greatly appreciate an alternative meal option on days when the school-lunch entree is red meat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My name is Champ Aipoalani and I support HB2083.

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

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

I, Courtney Aoki, am a supporter of HB2083. As a current Mililani High School senior, I believe locally grown and produced foods will encourage students to eat local, and create less food waste, while also becoming more aware of our nutrition and the environment.

My name is Hayden and I am a junior at Mililani High school. I am testifying in support of HB2083. As a student over the years I have seen and experienced changes to not just myself but others around me . Lots of perspectives we have change and opinions of others can tie into the changes we make to wanting a better lifestyle . Growing up in Hawaii I've heard many things about school lunch and have gotten many opinions on how some students won't eat because of how it's made or just because it doesn't look edible. I believe that having the option to choose whether or not we want to eat better/ having specific days to eat better will improve and better us as students. Allowing schools to offer these types of changes can help dig into other programs in schools that aren't really known like the Agriculture class that can help provide the food for us to eat and help students to get into and learn where food should come from. Which will help us as an Island to be less dependent on the Mainland to provide our food where most of the time we don't know where it's getting made or how . I hope you will consider passing H.B. No.2083 HD 2 because it will help us better. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

I, Bonnie Parker, urge the passing of HB2083 to not only uphold ACT 175 which was put into effect July 1, 2021 but for the sake of the total well being of all students under the care of the Department of Education across the pae 'āina of Hawai'i.

I believe that the passing of this bill will not only benefit students, it will benefit the people of Hawai'i as well as the land in which we reside...our 'āina, the land which feeds and nourishes us extending from our oceans, to our soils, to our freshwaters, to our skies, to our heavens.

We are in a climate crisis, we are one natural disaster away from a total food system collapse. Is it not our responsibility to give our future generations something better than this?? The DOE is the state's largest institutional consumer of food products, serving over 100,000 students a day. 100,000 meals each day equals 100,000 opportunities every single day school is in session to make a better choice. Imagine if each of these choices was to support a healthier diet for our keiki, to support our local farmers, to support total food sovereignty.

Imagine if each of these 100,000 choices each day were opportunities to decrease our reliance on 98% imported foods, opportunities to revitalize and maintain the health of our waters and soils, opportunities to develop infrastructure that does not contribute to the devastating effects of climate change.

This is a crucial and pivotal moment for our future. We need this committee as well as every committee in the Senate and the House to work together to take charge in the leadership role we

entrusted you with, and lead us towards a more food secure and environmentally sustainable future.

We believe that HB2083 will help create and support a more viable food system to benefit the people and the land of Hawai'i. The solutions are right in front of us, we need to put them into action now.

Mahalo,

Mililani High School Students & Teacher
Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:37:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ming Wei Koh | Testifying for Center for Getting Things Started | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We stand by the testimony we submitted. Mahalo nui loa



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15am

In support of HB2083 HD3 SD1 with suggested amendments

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and WAM Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB2083 HD3 SD1, but with an additional suggested amendment.** This measure requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of 30% of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Submitting a plan will help ensure that this very important goal is met.

Incentivizing schools to reach the local farm to school meal goal of 30% of food served in the school is a common-sense idea that supports our farmers and at the same time helps our keiki by providing local, fresh, healthy options. We know that by promoting healthy lifestyle choices and providing access to meals that contain less processed food, and more fruits and vegetables, we can help keiki reduce their risk for developing chronic diseases and improve their overall health.

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

Unfortunately, this measure has been significantly watered down from its original intent. Previous versions of this measure **required** the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year. Plant-based meals provide a healthy, tasty, climate-friendly option our keiki can enjoy. Moreover, **the original version** of this measure aimed to require **all public high schools** under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program. It is very disappointing that despite numerous examples of school districts on the continent that are **already** successfully providing vegan options to students, that the HD2 version of this measure chose to launch only a small pilot project limited to just one high school. This, after numerous testimonies provided by youth at the hearing which stated their concern about food choices that contributed to the climate crisis, wanting to have options for locally sourced, plant-based meals

that would be less carbon-intensive, in addition to those currently following a vegan diet, yet noting there were no meaningful school meal accommodations to address their dietary preference, and as a result, they were simply left to go without. Yet, at the least, HD2 had a mandate to begin the process to address this concern. However, subsequent amendments changed 'require' to '*allow*' and now '*authorize*' the department of education to establish a plant—based meal pilot program. This only serves to watered down this measure. **And let's be honest. Without a mandate this plant-based meal program will never happen.**

We strongly urge that this important measure be amended back to specify 'require' rather than 'authorize' the department of education to establish a plant—based meal pilot program, and further amend this measure **to expand the pilot to more than one location**, as piloting at only one school would be insufficient if the intent of the pilot is to truly flush out issues to ensure success for a subsequent statewide implementation of this program. Anything less would be a slap in the face of the engaged, committed youth who have testified on this measure, and unequivocally articulated their concerns and need for a plant—based meal program.

Some of our 350Hawaii members who were in high school in the 60s and 70s recall going hungry at school because a vegetarian lifestyle was considered 'too fringe' to be accommodated back then. Here we are now in 2024 and youth are still going hungry because we still can't provide a real meal option for youth following a vegan diet. This is wrong and unacceptable. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require all of us working together. We all need to be part of the solution. Importantly, we need to offer opportunities to empower our keiki by giving them the opportunity to make sustainable food choices that will help mitigate climate breakdown.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support with a suggested amendment** to this measure.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

LATE

April 3, 2024

Subject: *HB2083 - Relating to School Meals*

We are writing **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2083**, which enables the Department of Education to establish an incentive program to encourage schools to devise a strategy aimed at reaching the local farm-to-school meal goal of having thirty percent of their food offerings locally sourced by 2030, while also mandating that public high schools offer plant-based meal options.

Many parents, despite trusting that their keiki will be taken care of at their school, have their children come home starving each day because the lunch being provided looks and tastes unappetizing. They report lunch meats looking gray and cold, and thousands of students simply throw away their meals. This phenomenon causes an insurmountable amount of food waste every single week throughout Oahu's school system, which is not only a waste of money but a waste of resources. Tens of millions are spent each year for food in our public school system to feed our keiki, only to end up being fed to pigs.

We are testifying in favor of **HB2083** because it stands to benefit our agricultural sector by promoting the inclusion of locally sourced foods in school meals. Additionally, it offers nutritious meal options to students, which can enhance their learning outcomes and potentially reduce annual food waste. This legislation has the potential to stimulate the demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables, ensure access to healthy food for the numerous children in the public school system, and diminish reliance on imported goods.

We urge the committee to pass HB2083.

Mahalo,
Hawaii 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 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads 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.



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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2083.**

By establishing a recognition program to incentivize schools to reach the goal of thirty percent locally sourced food by 2030, the Department of Education would be taking a proactive step towards supporting local farmers and promoting food sustainability in our communities. Increasing the availability of plant-based meal options in public high schools is also a commendable aspect of this bill, as it promotes health, environmental sustainability, and compassion towards animals.

To ensure this program is enacted, we request that this measure be amended on page 3, lines 2 and 8 to replace "may" with "shall". Such an amendment would shift from a permissive tone, where actions are optional, to a mandatory tone, emphasizing the importance of these initiatives.

We strongly believe that supporting local farmers and promoting healthy meal options in schools is essential for the well-being of our communities. By passing HB2083, the legislature can help create a more sustainable food system in Hawaii and provide students with nutritious meal options that support their health and the health of the planet.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



LATE

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

April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2083, HD3, SD1
RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS**

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau provides comments on HB 2083, HD3, SD1, which requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm-to-school meal goal of thirty percent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030 and authorizes the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani High School no later than the 2025-2026 school year.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, poultry, and value-added products in our schools and state facilities. We support the State's Farm-to-School (F2S) goal of 30% by 2030, in accordance with Act 175, SLH 2021. Increased purchasing by DOE will help address food security and food sustainability by creating demand for local farm products which will result in farmers and ranchers growing more. It will also help provide more of Hawai'i's fresh and nutritious foods to our students.

HFB is working with the Department of Education to increase the number of Hawai'i farmers and ranchers that can provide more local products for Hawai'i's Farm to School program

We are not clear on the purpose of the recognition program that incentivizes schools to submit a plan to the DOE for their school to reach the local farm-to-school meal goal. Will each school be required to implement and determine the farm-to-school program individually for their specific school? What does the recognition program look like, and at what costs? We absolutely support the farm-to-school program, but we don't think this

recognition program is essential to reaching our F2S goals. A F2S incentive program for farmers and ranchers may be a better way to achieve our F2S goals.

HFB supports plant-based foods as well as animal proteins. However, we have concerns with the requirement for plant-based meals at this time. Hawaii farms and food manufacturers are currently unable to provide local plant-based meat/meat alternatives for meals at 257 schools statewide. Hawaii's agriculture and food manufacturing industry does not have large-scale vendors producing sufficient plant-based proteins made from local ingredients that meet the Federal Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. In addition, most plant-based meat/meat alternatives that would make up a plant-based entree are processed and do not meet the local criteria for agricultural foods or value-added products. Many plant-based meat/meat alternatives are soy-based proteins like tofu and other legumes that are not produced to meet the demands of plant-based meals. We would most likely have to import these products, which would reduce the percentage of local food being served in schools. This is the opposite of our Farm-to-School goal. The DOE currently purchases 6.4% local and has only six years to reach 30%. We should focus on achieving the first benchmark of 30% and then look into increasing plant-based meals. This will also give our farmers and food producers time to scale up to meet DOE's plant-based meal needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:44:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Cade Kawae and I am a twelfth grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

What had especially drawn me to support the bill was the health benefits that come with the improvement of school meals. From what the bill reads, newly introduced plant-based school meals would reduce the risks of diabetes, cancers, and other highly prominent diseases in the United States and state of Hawaii that could be easily avoidable in terms of the school youth. Personally, I witness many students at my school avoid school lunches

entirely and bring their own lunch made elsewhere. I believe that introducing plant-based meals could incentivize and appeal to more students to consume school lunches. Although the change may be miniscule at first, the benefits would still outweigh the outcome of not introducing these meals at all. In terms of local awareness, said meals would promote locally-sourced businesses and farms, and would save the cost it would take to import goods from the mainland and other international sources. Concluding this testimony and as a student who purchases and consumes school lunches regularly, I'm sure that myself as well as other students wouldn't mind trying out plant-based meals. It would promote word of mouth about the new program and make the decision to a healthier approach towards school meals more popular.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it would make a significant impact on school meals, which could change the future of how schools and even Hawaii as a whole eat and decide where to get their food from. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cade Kawae

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:46:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Keilana Tanigawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Keilana Tanigawa and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support** of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Among the many benefits that this bill has to offer our future, here is why I feel that it should be passed. I have gone to Mililani Schools all my life, from elementary grades all the way to twelfth. Lunch has always been something people would complain about daily. Some of my friends started skipping and eventually I did too. It would be amazing to see some improvements to the food system at the schools so that upcoming students can feel good about what they eat

inside and out! My sister in third grade a couple years ago got to experience a test run of the plant based program in elementary school. She came home with a big smile on her face expressing to my mom about how good her lunch was that day. Healthy and wholesome foods are vital to help students grow and for their brains to be functioning at full capacity; to feel awake and rejuvenated. This bill will help that come true.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I want my siblings and future generations to be able to love what they eat and learn about how they can help their environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Keilana Tanigawa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:51:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Carlee Furukawa and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Throughout my twelve years of jumping from elementary school, to middle school, to high school, I have experienced my fair share of meals in the cafeteria. It is safe to say that after all these years the meals have stayed exactly the same. Breakfast and lunch served at school is not only food and fuel, but it can impact someone's mood, eating habits, thoughts on portion sizes, and the kind of diet they have. Food served at school has a bigger impact on

students than people may think, especially on the younger kids. It is vital for especially elementary schoolers that they are getting the types of food they deserve to grow. Locally sourced products can help with this and with the support of H.B. No. 2083 there is a target goal of at least thirty percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced. With this bill we can also teach the younger generation the importance of agriculture, locally sourced foods, and vegetarian options. At a young age it's important for children to know how valuable food is but also how it affects our environment. Passing this bill can help prevent future generations from encountering the same problems we have had with food. Past generations may have been failed through the food system but it is our responsibility to make sure that future generations get the food they deserve.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 as it will positively impact future generations to come. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Carlee Furukawa

Mililani High School

COUNTY COUNCIL

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



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

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

April 2, 2024

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 2083, HD 3, SD 1, RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2083, HD 3, SD 1, Relating to School Meals. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 2083, HD 3, SD 1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2083, HD 3, SD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:slr

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:57:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our keki need healthy local food and our farmers can grow it

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kristin McNeal and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

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

Sincerely,

Kristin McNeal
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:20:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Hailee Reason and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I moved here to Hawaii a year and half ago. Since living here I have taken a marine biology class as well as an AP environmental science class. These classes have taught me so much about environmental issues and research as well what causes these issues and solutions to climate change. One of the first assignments that we did was writing a letter to our great grandchildren. In my letter I wrote about how I hope that they are able to experience the

beautiful vibrant sunsets that I get to see, I hoped they say could snorkel the reefs and see them full of life, but most importantly I wanted them to look back and thank my generation for putting in the work to preserve the environment so they could experience those amazing things. The best way that we can help preserve the world that we know today for our great grandchildren is by changing our diets. The industrial meat industry is one of the biggest carbon emissions sources in the world. This bill is intended to implement more plant based meals into school lunches. Starting this program at schools will introduce a new diet centered around locally sourced fruits and vegetables to the younger generation. If that generation grows up eating less animal products and meats they will hopefully continue eating like that for the rest of their lives helping improve the overall well being of the environment.

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

Sincerely,

Hailee Reason

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:32:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Mollie Moore and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I grew up on the mainland until middle school. I remember visiting Hawaii about a year before moving to Oahu, the rich culture really impressed me, especially the local food. I loved experiencing eating freshly caught fish, or fruit and vegetables from local farmers markets. They were so tasty, made me feel good, and reminded me of the culture I was experiencing. It was a very memorable part of my trip. So, when I moved here transitioning into high school I was excited and to be honest, I had my hopes up for the school's food system. I wanted to be able to experience Hawaiian culture through the food I was eating at school. Not only is the food different from what I expected it to be, I notice sometimes when I eat the meat provided by the cafeteria, it does not make me feel well and I end up regretting getting the food in the first place. I think this bill is a wonderful opportunity for our Mililani community and other communities throughout the islands to not only get a better understanding of the rich Hawaiian culture and agriculture we have here but to use it as a helpful addition to our schools food systems. I love the idea of offering more plant-based options as well, as there are many benefits from a plant based diet. Some benefits include reduced risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes and an increase in overall mental health and wellness. This is great for growing students! Even if students do not realize the benefits of plant based eating, having the option is the first step in the right direction. So, with this bill incorporating more locally grown food in our school systems with a plant based option we as students can learn more about Hawaiian culture, feel better after eating, and have the desire to eat healthier or more plant based because of the amazing benefits.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I believe it could be a great bill in our society and will benefit the overall health of students around the state. It is also the perfect way to bring us closer as a community as we all learn to appreciate the islands we live on more and more in our daily lives. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mollie Moore
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:33:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Tying the % of locally produced foods served in HiDOE's meal service to the % served in all other State agencies seems counterproductive. No other agency is charged with feeding 100,000 students a day. This is a situation where equity or equality should not be a reason for HiDOE to not move forward.

Seems obvious that DOE is not ready to implement a Farm to School Program in SFSB and instead I suggest they create a list of all the reasons why this will not work and begin to change their systems one at a time to create the change needed. The public, keiki and their families, and Hawaii's farmers are ready to make the changes necessary, the DOE being an Agency of Hawaii's keiki and families needs to change also. Mahalo.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:50:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lydi Morgan Bernal | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to directly engage school communities in the successful implementation of the Hawaii Farm to School Program, and to pilot more (locally-sourced) plant-based school meals.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill. Please pass this bill into law for the benefit of Hawai'i's keiki and communities.

Mahalo nui!

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:09:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Payton Hiromoto and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Payton Hiromoto

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:15:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Tyler Ishikawa and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 SD1 because obtaining food from local sources and adding a plant based lunch will reduce both negative health and environmental effects. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tyler Ishikawa

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kyla Lum and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I am a student athlete and sports have always been a big part of my life so a healthy diet is very important for me. Locally grown foods in school lunches consist of more vegetables and fruits which I think will benefit the health of the students. A lot of students at our school do not eat school lunches and instead they wait until after school to go to the town center across the street. A lot of the restaurants at the town center are fast food and unhealthy. I think that if more locally grown foods are in school lunches then more students will eat them because it will be more appealing than what we have now.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it is a good way to improve the overall health of students that go to these schools. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyla Lum
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:31:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kyra Kim and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Growing up, for school lunches there was never an option for a plant-based diet. Well, actually I didn't really put any thought into what school lunches were made out of. I just ate whatever was given to me. However, now as I am a senior in highschool, I am intrigued by what I have learned about how our school lunches are made. A lot of our school lunches are imported and now locally grown. When I found out about this, I was extremely

shocked. Individuals in Hawai'i always talk about supporting locally however the DOE schools are not. They are importing goods from the Mainland. I have 1 younger sibling that attends an IHS school and 4 other younger siblings that attend DOE schools. My goal from them is to help them become more aware of where their school lunches come from and the importance of eating sustainably. When I asked one of my younger sisters, who is in elementary school, where she thought her school lunches come from, she answered "from animals". Although this is somewhat correct, it is not 100% organic since farms inject GMOs and other growth impacting substances. Those farms only care about getting as much "meat" as they can out to the public even if it risks those lives who consume it. If we allow school lunches to become more sustainable, we will be able to help other students become aware of where their school lunches come from. Students who eat these school lunches will have a better connection with the 'aina since they will know where their food comes from. And those who prefer plant-based meals will be able to partake of school lunches. This might also spark more interests in individuals to want to take care of the 'aina and land that gives back to them.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I believe that it will impact not only the students at Mililani High School but also the Mililani community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyra Kim

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:05:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Riley Tateyama and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I understand that as head of this committee you have the responsibility of handling the revenue to fund the government. I feel that this bill is crucial for the keiki of Hawai'i and would essentially be putting money to the future generations. Funding the future. I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to have recent experience to aloha, and malama the 'āina and it really connects a person with their food and their community, it is hard to put into words but when you have

locally produced foods it nourishes you better. It is not just a feeling it is fact as well since it is picked more ripe and nutrient dense then produce that has to take time shipping to where we are. I think that these programs that encourage schools are what is necessary to fund the movement of locally grown food being on students' plates.

As for the pilot program for the plant based meal, this is very important because Mililani High School has a portion of the student body who are vegan, vegetarian, or pescatarian, all not eating meat. This would bring a meal that these students can eat to sustain them during the school day, this includes me as I prefer plant based meals. I can attest to the fact that many students feel most distracted when they are hungry leading to getting distracted or it being hard to focus in class and so it is important for the school to provide nutritious meals for every student.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it is necessary for public schools like Mililani High to move forward and improve its food that is fueling the next generation. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Riley Tateyama

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:11:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Thomas Rosenbalm | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Thomas Rosenbalm and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Eating school lunch is avoided whenever possible due to the amount of processed and shipped food. I've heard numerous complaints and desires for change back to what the lunch once was under the Aina Pono program. Essentially, students want more local food in school lunches. I spoke with multiple students who looked back with longing to the days in which we had local deserts. Even the every once in a while option for a completely locally sourced fresh dish was

looked upon with praise and gratitude. Fresh food tastes better than food shipped from the mainland.

I want these changes to be made, I want the department of education to follow suit. So much so that in fact one of the topics with my friends was cutting the pay of board of education members if they do not meet standards. While I know this is unreasonable and unrealistic, I hope it shows the extent to which we want this change to happen.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the importance to the students at Mililani high school. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rosenbalm

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Eliana Takara and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1, which would enforce the policy of requiring at least 30% of public school lunches to be made of locally sourced products by incentivizing schools, and would also require a plant-based option to be provided to all students.

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

In closing, I sincerely hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it would truly change the lives and perspectives of our next generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

Eliana Takara :)
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, my name is Chase Botill and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2083, which incentivizes schools to plan for and meet the farm to school meals goal, and so it will ensure that the goal of Act 175 will be met by 2030.

I support this bill because I see it as completely necessary for the local economy of Hawaii. With my volunteering experience with local farms and restoration sites. These sites, such as Mālama Pu'uloa and Loko Ea, I have seen how impactful it is to have a working and sustaining local food source. Not only has it benefited the people economically, but culturally too.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2083 because this bill will, for a short term loss and a long term gain, support the integrity of Hawaii's food security and its economy. It will do so by increasing local food production, keeping Hawaii's money in its economy, and by cutting down the costs of shipment for importing foodstuffs, to name a few. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Chase Botill
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jenny Kuwahara and I am a teacher at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support** of H.B.No. 2083 HD3.

I am testifying specifically in support of the plant-based meal part of the bill. I believe it is necessary to implement this part of the bill for the health of the environment and the youth who depend on school meals. At Mililani High School we have the support of the principal, the cafeteria manager, students, and teachers to implement a pilot program that we hope could be adopted by the rest of the DOE, in a similar way that the New York public school system implements a “plant powered Friday” menu for all students. The bill should include amendments about expanding the program to all Hawai'i DOE campuses if the pilot is successful. As we all know, many students live in food deserts and may benefit from increased access to whole plant-based foods. Further, our continued reliance on highly processed and imported foods procured in our industrial food system means that we are perpetuating support for an environmentally destructive food system.

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

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

Sincerely,



Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:53:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rebekah | Testifying for Mililani High School | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Rebekah Okimoto and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083.

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

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

Sincerely,
Rebekah Okimoto

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:59:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gemma Muller-Smit | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means, my name is Gemma Muller-Smit and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD2.

During my time in school on the mainland I almost always had a vegetarian option if I ever forgot my lunch and this was very important to me because without lunch I would have to spend hours at home trying to understand what they taught in class when I was too tired to understand the info but Mililani rarely has a lunch I can eat. As a vegetarian this makes my life very difficult because bringing my own lunch to school is difficult as I have a limited amount of space and little access to temperature safe places to store it during school, and little access to proper appliances to heat it up. Like many students, I am sometimes forced to skip lunch all together causing me to struggle to keep up in class when I forget my lunch at home. This is unhealthy for students and can easily be solved by

bringing in more local fruit and vegetables and adding a plant based option to the school menu.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 for the health of all students at Mililani. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gemma Muller-Smit

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:09:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Dannika Pila and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I have been a public school student for thirteen years, and in this time there have been few meals that I have enjoyed or have fulfilled my hunger. Most of the meals that I have consumed over my thirteen years of school have not consisted of fresh local foods. Imagine how feeding the thousands of public school students with locally grown produce could help

our farmers and our local economy. Adding a plant-based option to our lunches is not only good for our bodies, but it is important for the Earth as well.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will allow students to have a healthy, locally-sourced meal. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dannika Pila

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:31:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mia Moss | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means, My name is Mia Moss and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. Passing this bill would embark on so many positive outcomes in our community. Relying on the mainland to provide for us isn't doing us any good. What if there's a lockdown and imported goods aren't able to ship here? It would be chaos. We need to be able to provide for ourselves not just because of that reason, but it's also sustainable. Local farmers wouldn't lose their farms and there would be an increase in taxes, resulting in more funding. The Peterson farm just announced the closing of their farm. A farm that has been passed down through generations since 1910, including representative Lauren Matsumoto. I've always received letters and knocks on my door from her about the farm ever since I was little. It's saddening to see something that has been here for so long go away. As a teenager, not only do I want this for myself, but I want it for the future generations before us. This should've happened a long time ago, and it's time to make a change now. I hope you will consider

passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it's important for not just now but the future generation of people. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mia Moss

Mililani High School

Katherine T. Kupukaa
Mililani, HI 96789

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR

DATE: Thursday, 4/4/2024
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 211

Bill HB 2083, HD3 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

My support of this bill is the benefits that will be afforded to the students in our communities such as having good health. I have been a vegetarian for 20 plus years and good, healthy nutrition has been part of my healthy lifestyle. What needs to take place is educating students and their families about the benefits of eating healthy meals. The results of eating healthy meals may not take place overnight. I haven't been sick for 30 plus years.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:45:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Reese Nakayama | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Reese Nakayama and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1, which would create an incentive program for schools providing a plant-based meal option.

I support this bill because it would mean creating a healthier Hawaii for our younger generations. Since Freshman year I can count on a single hand the amount of school lunches I have gotten and can remember how I would only eat a few things off the plate. After realizing I kept wasting I eventually moved on to bringing snacks from home which often consisted of only soda crackers and a piece of candy. By not having a full nutritious lunch, it impacts my focus and energy for the rest of the school day. While I do agree that bringing a small amount of food is my choice, school lunch isn't. With school lunch there is little flexibility and having a program like this would easily open more opportunities for good nutrition throughout the day.

I understand that this program would require funds in a budget that is already tight in the state, but I believe having a plant based option with school lunches would reduce the amount of food wasted and increase the amount of school lunches purchased. This program also has the capabilities to expand and help other schools in doing so which can in turn help Hawaii find a healthier future. Additionally plant based meals would be easier to compost in the future if schools have a compost program in place. Here at Mililani High School the AP Environmental Science and other agriculture related courses have taken on the mission to make composting a schoolwide movement which aims to transform food waste into nutrients that don't end up in landfills.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it has a lot of promise for creating a healthier Hawaii and nutrition plan in public schools. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Reese Nakayama

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:49:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Taevin Xayaseang and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

classes like culinary arts can USE this locally grown food to learn more about the impact and importance of what we do with these foods. Agriculture could learn more about organic compost, APES could learn more about the importance of our food waste using hands-on activities, and culinary arts could learn about different foods and how to properly use them to make a dish. There's so many endless possibilities that we can use with this change of school lunch; The education system, not only in Mililani, but all across the island could use this change for the greater good.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I am very excited for the new and amazing opportunities this bill can provide for us students. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Taevin Xayaseang

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Alyson Law and I am an 11 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **[in support of]** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because you can help us students and it would be great for the newer generations to experience this change of food at school. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alyson Law
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

In school, my class has gone on a field to Manoa-Palolo water streams to take out invasive fish out of the stream that is affecting our environment. We were given multiple different species to take out of the stream including catfish. These catfish were removed from the stream and were used as composting. They are affecting our environment by eating a variety of our native species, decreasing their population. I have learned the importance of keeping our native species alive because it is a part of our culture and the impact of getting rid of our invasive species. It is important to me that we get rid of invasive species because they could reduce biodiversity along with overtaking our native species.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it could help to spread awareness of these pests and how they are negatively affecting our home and cultured species. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaylie Iwasaki
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Aaryn Mounthongdy and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying In support of the intent H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I believe that the target goal of thirty percent of food in school to be from local sources would be beneficial in numerous ways. From a person who eats lunch everyday at school I can tell you by experience that I would enjoy a fresher meat than a frozen beef patty that's been sitting in the freezer for over a month. Using meats like Venison or locally grown beef from the Big Island would be much tastier than a plain beef patty. While cost and logistics to make this happen would be much more expensive I can guarantee you that many students would be willing to pay the extra amount for tasty food. Money people spend on the vending machines because they don't want to eat school lunch could be used for them to buy a better locally grown school lunch.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the impact that it would have for not only the kids in school but also the local economy. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Aaryn Mounthongdy
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:21:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Reagan Botill | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Reagan Botill and I am a 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Reagan Botill

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:31:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sierra Kaneshiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Sierra Kaneshiro and I am a 10 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

It would benefit our community, economy and environment because we are supporting local businesses and can start to rely on them more instead of shipping from the mainland. When food gets shipped from the mainland, the food is processed which harms our body and can lead to serious health problems if eating too much processed food. It also harms the environment because of all the packaging being used and it leaves a carbon footprint.

We also spend so much money shipping food here when we could be growing it or harvesting it on our islands which is way cheaper than what we are doing now. It would help our community because we are all coming together to help the local businesses which also improves our economy as well since we are not purchasing expensive foods and shipping them here. It would also improve our environment by a lot because there would not be as much packaging and we would be leaving way less carbon footprint because we aren't shipping it overseas and instead throughout the island.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it would help benefit our community, economy, and environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sierra Kaneshiro

Mililani High School

Date: April 2, 2024

To: WAM

From: Debbie Millikan

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2083 Relating to School Meals

Hearing: Thursday April 4, 10:15am, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2083 HD3 which will establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of 30% by 2030. This also allows the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school.

I have worked with children in school gardens for the past 20 years and have seen firsthand how providing local, fresh foods in school lunches improves the health of our children and the health of Hawai'i's food system.

In terms of providing plant-based meals, the real intention is not to address every individual's interest but to recognize that when we focus on plant-forward meals we support the health of children and the health of 'āina in Hawai'i, we encourage and support locally grown, healthy options for nutrition and energy. We all know the downsides to animal agriculture in terms of human health and environmental impacts. Why can't we make it easier for our students to make wise food decisions by offering them options that are healthier for all!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill,

Debbie Millikan, Ph.D.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Thomas Kubo and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Kubo
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:18:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Aether Zhang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because the changes of sustainability must start now. It is very important to take a step towards positively enforcing environmental sustainability and institutional enthusiasm. We don't have to wait for a change, we can raise and take the lead. It is the frontier of combating environmental injustice we steadily strive towards. This bill is not only a bill that will raise the interest of students to participate more in the cafeteria process but giving opportunities to local small businesses to have a trustworthy collaboration with educational institutions, also could support local business to increase the whole Hawaii's sustainability as a state.

The food program of every school is creative and an important key contributor to daily engagements of students to build relationships at a community level. When we elevate the ability of our own food place, its renewal will attract more students as well as teachers to raise community pride and promote zero waste.

It is the opportunity to modify and advance the institutional cafeteria system. Allowing students who are a minority (vegetarians) and starving to have a chance to enjoy a good meal provides them energy to focus on classes. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. It will be an overall positive growth for institutions around the island as well as the humanity system (social, political, economic, cultural, etc).

Sincerely,
Aether Zhang Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:19:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Elisabeth Fujii | Testifying for Mililani High School | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15 AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Elisabeth Fujii and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As a student who has many friends who never eat school lunches, I believe that there are benefits to changing school meal options. By providing a “plant-based meal” option for students, a healthier option that may appeal more to students can be available. Additionally, because plant-based meals are more sustainable and have many environmental benefits (reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease water and soil pollutants, and reduce overall carbon footprint) the switch is an important step toward a better future. Finally, based upon the concepts we have discussed in class this year I believe that maintaining the goal of 30% locally sourced products in school lunches will help Hawaii’s economy and environment.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will help our students to have healthier and more sustainable food options that benefit our 'aina. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Fujii

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Tori Lynn Yang and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I have lived in Mililani my entire life and I am looking forward to making a change in my community. These school meals have been vaguely the same my entire life. Those cardboard plates have been filled with non-nutritional, low quality, bland tasting food. With this new potential of plant-based food, more people in school may actually buy school lunch, giving additional benefits to the school. With this option it will have more health benefits, compared to imported food. It will bring more knowledge and awareness of the positives of locally grown food. Which in term helps Hawai'i slowly become more self-sustainable and economically friendly. It would be an amazing opportunity to get Hawai'i to be more sustainable, instead of having to rely on others for its well-being. Please take this opportunity to do a great service to your community and state.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because of the impact on future generations and the state and well being of Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tori Lynn Yang
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:31:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

I, Aiden Dimaya, a proud senior from Mililani High School, am here to reach out to Testify for H.B. No. 2083 HD3 SD1. In my daily routine, school lunch is a staple, resonating deeply with me and my peers. It's not just a meal; it's a bond that knits us together, creating a familial ambiance. Nevertheless, our contentment with the current state of school lunches dwindles as they often lack freshness and appeal, earning the nickname we like to use "mystery meals".

Enacting H.B. No. 2083 promises an upliftment in the quality of school lunches, thereby enriching the lives of countless students, just like myself, all across the beautiful landscape of Hawaii.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for considering this matter.

Mahalo,

Aiden Dimaya

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:32:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lyizel Gutierrez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawai'i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Lyizel Gutierrez, and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am here to provide testimony in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. Throughout my tenure at Mililani High, I have been impressed by the comprehensive resources available to its students. However, I have also observed a significant environmental concern that remains unaddressed at the statewide level, adversely affecting the school and its student body. Consequently, I stand in favor of the proposed bill. Its core objectives align with the necessary improvements our educational system must undertake. It is imperative that the Department of Education fosters a culture of wellness among its students. With young individuals spending over 35 hours per week in school, the quality of provided meals is crucial for their sustained energy and productivity. By endorsing this bill, we can ensure healthier alternatives are readily available, discouraging students from

resorting to fast food options that may compromise their nutritional intake after extended periods of limited sustenance.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083HD 3 SD1 because not only is it an obligation of the department, its a chance to do right by the students here in Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lyizel Gutierrez

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:57:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bella Nakagawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Bella Nakagawa and I am a 10th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

My health and the food I eat is very important to me. These conversations about where our school food comes from are happening, but this is the next step. My peers and I all care about our health and the relevance our food has to the Farm to Table system in Hawai'i. It is imperative to pass this bill, for the future health of our keiki here in Hawai'i. We must do it for the future, for the children.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bella Nakagawa
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Zandra Cuaresma and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Throughout my four years at Mililani High School I have had my occasional school lunch, and speaking from experience the quality of the food could be vastly improved through the use of locally-sourced products. I find that a lot of the meals served look unappetizing due to their artificial look; One of the last lunches that I bought at school had sides that looked like real food, consisting of Okinawan Sweet Potatoes and vegetables which made me more excited to eat, and more reassured about my choice of lunch for the day. With Mililani High School being a centralized kitchen, I believe that the inclusion of more locally sourced foods will be beneficial to students of Mililani, resulting in them making more healthy and mindful choices regarding their diet by encouraging more healthy and sustainable habits in an environment where they are already learning. I believe that at this point in time the idea of incentivising schools to increase their use of locally-sourced products is perhaps ineffective; Instead guidelines should be implemented to create significant action in including more locally-sourced products in school meals.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it is critical that we work toward meeting the farm to school meals goal. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Zandra Cuaresma
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kayden Anzaldo and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083, HD3 because it will greatly benefit the health of students and it is a very sustainable option for school meals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kayden Anzaldo
Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Brena Broxson and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As a student at Mililani High School, I speak on behalf of our students to say a plant based meal program is bound to bring newfound benefits to our school. Not only will my vegetarian friends be able to eat school lunches, many students will be able to experience a healthy and well rounded diet. Those who are lactose, like myself, will eat with no worry and those who don't favor red meat will feel seen. This bill brings to life the requests we've been waiting for for an improved and sustainable future especially with locally sourced products. If HB2083 is able to pass and succeed, it will allow more and more students to thrive along with our environment with wider communities agriculturally.. For it to come this far, it is an opportunity worth taking.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because the price is small compared to the amount of things Hawai'i will be able to accomplish with this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brena Broxson
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:49:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| cheryl burghardt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 2083 HD3 SD1 which requires the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal pilot program at Mililani high school no later than the 2025-2026 school year.

In reading through the previous testimony by the DOE/Hayashi, I would ask that there be some kind of accountability timeline put on the DOE to ensure that all avenues are pursued in these goals. Based on past initiatives success rate especially in food supply to students, I believe accountability checks are important.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:36:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

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

This bill strives for local food being served in school cafeterias. If Mililani high school tries to add more local sides on our plates, then it can promote local crops and farmers and it can also teach the kids about foods local to Hawaii. This is not only good for students' health but also for their knowledge and understanding. If they like the food they're served,

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

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

Sincerely,

Kiana Lee

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:40:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Paisley Paulsen and I am a 12 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I am an intern in the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation program where we learn about sustainable agriculture. Here we grow our own produce and make plant-based meals. We learn the importance of growing food locally and how it benefits our land and community. I learned that sustainable and local agriculture can greatly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that we produce when we import our food. Many of the plant-based meals we

make there are quite simple but also tasty. We were taught that doing this at least once a week can greatly improve not only our health but also the environment since meat and dairy production holds a great percentage of the reason for global warming.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will benefit Hawai'i as a whole, providing better health and land for us, as well as benefiting future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Paisley Paulsen

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:47:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Brynn Yonemori and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because this not only concerns children today, but concerns future children just as much, if not more. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brynn Yonemori

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:55:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Simeon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Simeon Nau and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

My name is Simeon Nau and I am a 12 grader at Mililani High School. I participate in various sports and extracurricular activities and have also had the opportunity to take an AP Environmental Science class this year. In our class we recently had the opportunity to help Trich La Chica write a bill for our school about how school meals should be healthier and more locally grown. Hearing that this bill, bill HB2083 was not heard by the senate

and killed right away disappoints me. I think that this was a big mistake on their part. I think that the house of finance should consider hearing this bill because it will help a lot of our students to feel more connected and care more about the food they eat. I support this bill because as a high school student I am majorly affected by local and healthy foods not being accessible. At our school for school lunches there are not very many local fruit and vegetable options. This is hard for us because after 3 weeks of eating the same vegetables you get tired of it. More options of fruits and vegetables would be good for our students and our campus to have a better lunch system.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will help our campus and our students have a better feel and a healthier option and variety. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Simeon Nau

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:09:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kaylie Campania | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kaylie Campania and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As we are high school students who care about Hawaii’s public school food systems. We support the implementation of more locally grown foods into school lunches, increasing the percentage each year will ensure that this change will remain consistent over time.

In school, we as students actively partake in the consumption of meals at lunch. Learning about the distribution of local ingredients within our facilities nutrition through classes such as AP Environmental Science. Only 6% of food purchased by the DOE is produced or grown locally. Soon to reach 30% by the end of the decade in 2030. Transitioning to an additional 6% local food purchase increase every year will be best in achieving the end goal, making a required minimum. By doing this, we can further analyze the self-sustainability of local produce.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 for the future generations of students, needing the proper nutrition to satisfy rapidly learning minds. We are hoping to see the DOE become

more sustainable throughout the years and improve overtime. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaylie Campania

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:10:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Sachi Nacario and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As a student who has grown up in Hawaii , I have been able to see how the lunch meals have changed overtime. Over the years, I think that there has definitely been a push to incorporate fruits and vegetables into meals as well as more of a balance but there obviously can be further changes. Currently there are a bunch of processed foods and meats that we consume everyday in our school meals which contributes to many environmental impacts. As we know, one of the

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the growth and joy it would be able to bring to not only the students of Hawaii but the community as well. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sachi Nacario

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kassidy Pascua and I am a Junior grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the intent of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As a student that attends a school that provides meals and lunches to students that attend as well as other nearby schools. It is very important that the meals being served are nutritious and good for our mind and health. If this bill is to be passed then there would be a chance of more local and hearty meals being served during mealtimes.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because the addition of local healthy food would greatly benefit students directly. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kassidy Pascua
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:21:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Patrick Yuasa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Patrick Yuasa and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I think this will give farmers a dependable source of income and maybe even make it easier to buy local if farmers lower their prices as a result. This will also decrease the amount of processed foods we eat, which has an affect on our health.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the benefits to our farmers and our youth's health. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yuasa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:26:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Liam Yuasa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Tim Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

1:00PM, Senate conference room 224

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD 3

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Liam Yuasa and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3.**

I firmly believe that HB 2083 will have a positive impact on Hawaii's farmers, as well as the state's children. Implementing more local food into school lunches will provide local farmers with more money to expand their operations, increasing the island's food security. In addition, having fresh, local meals compared to processed foods will improve the health of our children.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the various benefits it will have on our food system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Liam Yuasa

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:38:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Madison Ragamat | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Madison Ragamat and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414, I am a student who is pretty involved with our community, as I played soccer for Mililani my freshman and sophomore year. I also am a member of our Class of 2025 student council, Key Club, and Interact Club. Currently being enrolled in an AP Environmental Science course in this third year of my high school career has helped me become more aware of both local and global environmental problems that are currently affecting our Earth. Some that involve our local agriculture. I am testifying in favor of SB 2414 because I feel that we should create more sustainable job opportunities that will profit our economy. As an isolated island we are constantly relying on our resources to be shipped in from the mainland and it takes a lot of money out of our economy. To add on, the only way our economy is gaining money is through tourism so if there was to be another pandemic like in 2020, we wouldn't be able to sustain ourselves. But by passing this bill we would create more jobs and money that would circle throughout the economy, helping to sustain us. From personal experience, my family was struggling to sustain ourselves due to our struggling economy and lack of money. So I support this bill, that way if something like that ever happens again, no one else will struggle as much. I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because of the profit it can have to the economy. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:40:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rylee Tanita | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Rylee and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

Nationwide, nutrition, healthy eating habits, and academics are three huge problems in the United States. It's generally hard to keep up with eating 3 meals a day, especially when trying to make it healthy and nutritional. Most people choose to skip meals, such as breakfast which is the most important meal of the day. People tend to do this because it's convenient, as no one has the

time to pack something early in the morning. Seeing this is a problem, having more accessible food options in school could positively impact students in Hawaii.

Coming from a personal standpoint, I usually choose to skip breakfast because I have no time to make something for myself in the morning. This is a terrible habit, as breakfast is what gives you energy and calories for the day. It awakens your brain to break you out of your fast from sleeping, which is why it's essentially called "breakfast". Studies have shown that 42% of US high school students with mostly A's ate breakfast on all 7 days, compared to 20% of students with mostly D/F's. Providing breakfast for students would not only impact their eating habits, but would also lead them to getting better grades in school. Students are shown more likely to succeed when provided with a good meal. In essence, providing better meals at school could contribute to students scoring higher in exams and classes. Adding on, incorporating nutritional additives into school meals would also help to conquer all three major problems in the United States. With healthier eating habits being developed, students' grades will increase, while they are also getting better nutrition in meals.

The solution to the problem is the most important step. If people continue to stand around saying they want to see a change, but not do anything to contribute, we will never make an impact in student's lives. I believe that we should focus on incorporating locally grown produce into student's breakfast and lunch served in schools. Fruits and vegetables are key points in nutrition. They provide vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, and help you to maintain a healthy gut. If all students are able to develop healthier eating habits, starting with their school meals they could end up integrating it into their eating choices at home. They could influence their parents and families to eat cleaner which will positively impact our economy. Not only will this benefit people's nutrition, this idea can also support local farmers. Most of our resources and produce are imported from the mainland making it hard for farmers to make a business. Allowing them to provide their produce to schools will open up a new opportunity and benefit Hawaii's economy as a whole.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because it will significantly benefit Hawaii's children and future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rylee Tanita

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:04:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Malia Matsuno | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Malia Matsuno, and I'm currently a senior at Mililani High School. As an individual who has previously taken the time out of my busy school day to testify for this bill in person at the Capitol, I believe that HB 2083 is a worthy investment for Hawaii's future.

Hawaii, with its distinctive environment and rich culture, deserves a food system that not only provides essential nutrition to students but also aligns with the principles of sustainability. Currently, the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch caters to approximately 100,000 students and staff daily. Unfortunately, the meals served consist of highly processed foods shipped from the mainland, reheated by cafeteria workers. Having attended Hawaii public schools for the past 12 years, I can attest that most students hardly consume these processed meals due to their lack of flavor and excessive grease. Given the diverse palates in our culturally rich state, our students deserve better.

Additionally, it is noteworthy that DOE lunches are mandated to be at least 30% locally sourced by 2030. However, as of now, only 6.2% of school lunch food originates locally, leaving us with less than eight years to meet this target.

In 2018, Mililani High School, as the second-largest food production site in the HIDOE, initiated the 'Aina Pono Farm to School program. This program aimed to introduce locally sourced, home-style cooked meals into the cafeteria. Students had the opportunity to sample dishes and provide feedback, and students from the AP Environmental Science classes studied patterns in student food intake resulting from the initiative. Although I was not yet enrolled in the high school at that time, my older sister participated in the program, and I vividly recall her excitement about the delicious school lunches she ate that day. Observing the positive impact on her and her classmates, it became evident that students were not only eating but also thoroughly enjoying their school lunches, produced in a significantly more sustainable manner. Fast forward to 2023, and Mililani High School has successfully integrated the skills learned in the 'Aina Pono Program to maximize the sourcing of locally grown food for school meals.

We possess concrete evidence that programs like these are effective in reducing our

environmental footprint, supporting the local economy, and enhancing the well-being of Hawaii's students through nutritious meals that they willingly consume.

HB 2083, which will establish a pilot program that requires one meal a week to be meatless, poses a worthwhile step towards improving the diets and health of our keiki. Reducing meat consumption has compelling benefits for both personal health and the environment. Studies have linked high red meat consumption to an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. To reiterate, livestock farming required to produce large quantities of meat for Americans requires heavy resources and is a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating climate change. By relying less on meat, thus encouraging students to include more plant-based meals in their diet, this can help reduce each person's environmental footprint and promote a healthier lifestyle. Recently, New York City has implemented "Meatless Mondays" in their public schools. On Mondays, schools serve all vegetarian breakfasts and lunches. Vegan lunches are also served on Fridays, something that was previously implemented. The pilot program for "Meatless Mondays" has been faced with positive feedback from NYC students. Just as the locally established 'Aina Pono program has been successful at Mililani High School, I strongly believe that implementing "Meatless Mondays" in a similar sense through HB 2083 in Hawaii will be met with the same support and enthusiasm.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Malia Matsuno

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:40:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support for our local farmers who should provide for our hawaii keiki through the DOE

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:28:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Emily Sarasa | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I support HB2083 but encourage the committee to amend the language of section 3(a) to require the plant-based meal program pilot. If Hawai'i wants to shift away from its near complete dependency on imported foods, it must shift towards plant-forward diets. The land and water resources here cannot support the industrialized animal agriculture systems required to maintain the standard American diet. This bill will help foster Hawai'i's transition to a local, sustainable, and equitable food system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emily Sarasa, 96816

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:36:42 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Quincy Coullahan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Quincy Coullahan

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:00:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawai‘i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Sydney Yamamoto and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying [pick one and keep it bold] [in support of]/[in support of the intent of] H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Being a military kid I’ve traveled to many places and have experienced many different types of school meals. Living in Japan we had to pack our own lunches which consisted of a balanced meal and they made sure the kids finished their whole meal before moving on. I found this very beneficial because it cut down on the amount of food waste. Moving to the mainland I found that school lunches were very unbalanced and there was a lot of waste that was produced at every meal. One thing that mainland schools did do in elementary was that they had plastic trays and utensils cutting down on the amount of plastic pollution. Compared to coming to Hawai‘i I found that they used a lot of plastic and paper materials for lunches which could be recyclable but at the end of the day they put everything in the trash can defeating the whole purpose of it. The one thing that they all had in common was that no one knew what the benefits were of the food that was being consumed and no one knew how it would impact us in our learning environment.

While they did put the image of “The Nutrition Plate” Were they ever feeding us the right portions? With this bill it not only helps to provide an unique opportunity for students who don’t eat meat to have school lunches but also provides an opportunity to give students a chance to learn about what they are eating and how it affects them in the classroom. Implementing plant based foods that could be local to many of the schools will help students to learn more about their cultures and the history that surrounds them. But it also provides an opportunity to go deeper into what is in the foods as well as how it can help benefit them in the classroom, I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it helps to provide an unique opportunity for students who don’t eat meat to have school lunches but also provides an opportunity to give students a chance to learn about what they are eating and how it affects them in the classroom. . Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sydney Yamamoto Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:04:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jojo Wung | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

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

I am writing this letter to you to show my support of No.2083 however I believe that we need to make some revisions. I would like to include more local foods into our meals. As a student of Mililani High School, one of the most affected places by this, I want to eat a meal knowing I am supporting our economy and the farmers that worked hard to produce the food we take. To prevent any confusion, I suggest providing schools with a clear checklist that demonstrates the local food production to prevent any confusion in reports by the end of the year.

In my research during my APES class, I have discovered that Hawaii ships about 90% of its food supply from other parts of the world. Hawaii, as you know, is a beautiful and unique island that has many different characteristics that set it apart from others. We have lots of biodiversity and a rich background. That being said, we could use this as an opportunity but instead we are avoiding sustainability. Right now, the food being served to us is almost all highly processed and shipped from the mainland. This affects us as students and our academic performance, as we need the right nutrients and good food to give us energy through the day and to complete our work. Due to the food not being tasty and not nutritious, our school accumulates a lot of food waste which is harmful to the environment and wasteful. So by creating an efficient process that reports local food being used in our school lunches, it will help create a more sustainable future where all students across this island can have delicious healthy meals.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No.2083 with our revisions so it can not only benefit us students, but also the people of Hawaii and for our island. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jojo Wung

Mililani High School

LATE

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jayda Sakoda and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As someone who has grown up in Hawaii for their entire life, I feel an incredibly strong love and care for the island of Oahu and the Mililani community. As a student here at Mililani High School I feel that it is very important for me and my fellow peers to have quality food that is not only accessible for us to eat, but can also help the environment and my community. Many students are not willing to eat school lunches whether this be because the food doesn't look appetizing, or because it simply doesn't taste good. This leaves many students with no real food to eat for an entire school day, lots of food waste, and causes many issues for the students, school, and the environment. In addition to these issues, 24% of waste in landfills is food waste, which causes many issues to not only our school but to many places around the island of Oahu. This bill has the power to start change not only at the high school but also the entire Mililani community. I feel extremely passionate about this bill and the things that it can accomplish.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of positive things that it can bring to the Mililani community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jayda Sakoda
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:08:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ellie Ryan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Ellie Ryan and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. To me this bill is promoting healthier meals in schools in Hawaii by using locally sourced products. It also is inclusive and encourages reducing meat consumption or making people aware of the impacts of their meat consumption, which I believe that both are important for the community. Not only does this bill improve students' health but it supports the environment by not encouraging unethical animal slaughter.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083, HD1 because of the health benefits, the awareness, and for protecting our animals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ellie Ryan

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:17:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Elika Miyamoto | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Elika Miyamoto and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I believe that we as students should be able to partake in locally grown food options. This will help our local growers make more of a profit instead of going to waist. I also believe that students should know what is being produced and made for us to eat. I have no clue of what goes into my body when I eat the food I'm given I just eat it because I'm hungry. Some of the foods make my stomach hurt after and it bugs me for the rest of the day. Locally grown food can help with this. In that way I know where my food is coming from and I know who's making it is trusted people.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I eat school lunch and I know most people don't because it's not locally grown. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elika miyamoto Mililani High School

LATE

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kaylene Lei Melchor and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1**.

I'm writing to say how much I support HB2083, a bill that aims to raise the standard of school meals by providing plant-based meal options and encouraging the use of locally sourced goods. I support youth health and environmental sustainability as a concerned citizen, and I think this bill is a critical step in developing a more sustainable and healthy food system for Hawaii's children.

In order to emphasize the value of serving pupils wholesome meals, HB2083 established a target of having thirty percent of the food given in public schools come from locally produced sources by 2030. This not only helps regional farmers and fosters economic development in the agriculture industry, but it also guarantees that students have access to healthful, fresh foods that improve their general health and well-being.

In addition, Mililani High School's approval of a plant-based lunch pilot program shows a dedication to providing a variety of wholesome food alternatives that satisfy the dietary requirements and health preferences of every student. Plant-based diets are a good option for boosting long-term health and sustainability because they have been scientifically demonstrated to lower the risk of chronic diseases and lessen environmental impact. Being a part of the youth community, I firmly think that systemic change may be sparked by group action. We are promoting healthier school meals, encouraging environmental stewardship, and enabling students to make educated decisions about their food and lifestyle by endorsing HB 2083.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB2083 and support initiatives that prioritize the health and well-being of Hawaii's youth. Together, we can make a significant impact on

the future of our food system and ensure that all students have access to nutritious, sustainable meals. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kaylene Lei Melchor
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:59:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

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

Sincerely,

Onosa'i Salanoa Mililani High School

Katherine T. Kupukaa
Mililani, HI 96789

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR

DATE: Thursday, 4/4/2024
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 211

Bill HB 2083, HD3 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

My support of this bill is the benefits that will be afforded to the students in our communities such as having good health. I have been a vegetarian for 20 plus years and good, healthy nutrition has been part of my healthy lifestyle. What needs to take place is educating students and their families about the benefits of eating healthy meals. The results of eating healthy meals may not take place overnight. I haven't been sick for 30 plus years.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:53:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stephen Patterson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Stephen Patterson and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1, in which it would establish a recognition program to incentivize schools with a plan to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty percent. We hope to reach this goal by 2030 while we need the cooperation of public high schools under the DOE to provide plant-based meals as an option. I am sending this email in hopes that you will at least hear out this bill and possibly pass it through your consideration.

I am really fond of this bill because this would increase homegrown meals for our school lunches. I am one of those students that will eat school lunch everyday whether I want to or not because I need to eat and it's an affordable meal for me. In my school our lunches can be inconsistent with the quality of the food. For example, when I ate lunch today we had grilled cheese with the option of only canned peas and steamed broccoli. After a while of eating these canned fruits and vegetables my desire to eat these goes down. On the rare occasion we are served sweet potato I love to eat it and I know many other students love it too. I've also done my research on it and found out that these sweet potatoes are locally grown and offer multiple benefits. With the support of this bill we could have more of these delicious lunches and support local businesses. This would decrease the amount of food wasted every time the school serves food and improve our economy. Additionally if we start this bill sometime this year it would greatly improve our chances of reaching our goal by 2030

I hope you will consider passing H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1 because it will support local businesses, boost our economy, offer better variety and health benefits to students across the state, and give us a direction towards our goal. Mahalo for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Stephen Patterson

Mililani High School

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means, My name is Logan Thorp and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

I have been living in Hawai'i for just over a year now, and have already been getting involved in local invasive species and helping to rebuild Hawai'i's native plant life. This has also allowed me to learn about the poor level of self-sustainability in our state. I believe that it is unacceptable for a place such as Hawai'i to have such a small amount of self-sustainability. If the U.S. were to ever go on lockdown, and shipments paused, Hawai'i would be in deep trouble as we only have enough sustainability to last less than a week. For a place such as Hawai'i to be able to survive effectively and efficiently, we need to not put all of our reliance into one place, but spread it out so if one part fails, then we have a backup that will help us to last until the other resumes. With extra effort being put forth towards self sustainability, we can actually save money that is used to help ship supplies here, and use some of that money to put into the state as a whole, including more sustainable foods and people to help make and grow local foods. With the encouragement of growing more local foods, we should also learn to implement them into the daily lives of Hawai'i locals, especially students. As of current, 6.2% of the food served in our schools is locally grown. I feel that this is unacceptable in a place that has so desperately talked about and acted upon self sustainability. With the introduction of this new law, we will be able to increase the amount of locally sourced food in our schools as well as influence local farmers to keep growing crops and selling them to schools and local communities.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because Hawai'i needs sustainability in order for us to survive without having to heavily rely on the mainland. We would be doing our state and our home a major service by implementing more sustainable food systems. By continuing to implement more local foods and continuing to boost Hawai'i's self-sustainability, we will put ourselves on the road to success within our state, and allow us to prosper for our future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Logan Thorp
Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:50:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Zoe Hirata | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair; Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Zoe Hirata and I am a eleventh grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying HD3 SD1.

Students being provided with plant based foods is more beneficial for our health and planet. As an elementary schooler, I was provided with locally grown and plant based meals which i enjoyed. These meals kept me fit and healthy throughout my five years of elementary school.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because this will encourage schools within our island and around thr world to start prepping meals with both locally grown products and plant based foods. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Zoe Hirata

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:40:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lexi Fernandes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Lexi Fernandes and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Passing this bill would mean so much to me. This bill would mean improvements of important aspects of our social life and the environment among many other things. Improving the quality and environmental impact of our school lunches means that much needed change is possible. This bill would do so much good for the young people of our

community and for the future generations. Making a change like this is just the start to a much brighter future for all of us.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because change needs to be made and this would mean a lot. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lexi Fernandes

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:03:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jacie Rapoza | Testifying for Mililani High School | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jacie Rapoza and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

As a resident and student of Hawaii I believe that this bill represents an important step forward for our Mililani community and state. Having 30% locally sourced foods in school lunches by 2030 will help benefit the students greatly. There have been many circumstances where the school lunches have seemed unappetizing due to the fact they were processed, many students would skip their lunch meal because of this, myself included. A healthier diet can help many students

with their studies and overall health. As a student who has taken 5 environmental related classes over the course of 4 years, I feel that having farm to table systems in place can be extremely beneficial. Not only to the students but also the environment.

Firstly, allow me to highlight the significant health benefits associated with incorporating locally sourced, plant-based options into school menus. Studies have consistently shown that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are linked to reduced risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and certain cancers. According to research published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, adopting a plant-based diet can decrease the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by up to 23%. In Hawaii, about 442,000 adults, or 41.5% of the adult population, have prediabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Diabetes Report Card 2017, 154,365 people in Hawaii, or 13.1% (1 out of every 9 individuals) of the adult population, have diabetes. Therefore students eating highly processed foods throughout their 4 years of high school can lead to long term negative health effects.

Furthermore, the adverse health effects associated with highly processed meat and dairy products, commonly served in schools, are well-documented. These products often contain additives, preservatives, and high levels of saturated fats, contributing to obesity rates and other health concerns among children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), childhood obesity rates in the United States have more than tripled over the past four decades, with serious implications for long-term health outcomes.

In addition to the health considerations, the environmental impact of conventional agricultural practices cannot be overstated. The agricultural industry, encompassing both livestock and crop production, is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agriculture accounts for approximately 24% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock production being a major contributor. Hawaii faces unique challenges related to food production and sustainability. Despite its lush landscape and fertile soil, the state imports approximately 85-90% of its food, leading to high levels of carbon emissions associated with food transportation. By promoting locally sourced, plant-based options in school meals, we can reduce our reliance on imported foods and support our local agricultural industry, which in turn contributes to the state's economic resilience.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because by transitioning towards a more plant-based, locally sourced food system, we can mitigate these environmental impacts and promote sustainability. Supporting local farmers and reducing the carbon footprint associated

with food transportation are crucial steps towards achieving our climate goals and ensuring the long-term health of our planet and Hawaii Islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jacie Rapoza

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:12:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jake | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jake Sihavong and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

food quality. Our school has recently done a food waste audit, where we collected excess lunches from students to use for creating compost. That experience made me realize the immense amount of students who still rely on school lunches every day for their source of nutrients. For the well-being of the student body, sourcing food locally, even that initial 30%, will improve the quality of these vital meals for future generations. These students

may be the driving force in society decades from now, so we must do our best to support them as much as we can; supplying a quality lunch is a key first step.

For the plant-based meal program, this is just as important. Meat has been an integral part of my diet for many years; from childhood to now, I still admittedly consume it. However, recently I have discovered not only the environmental effects of our meat industry but also the ethics behind it. In the grand scheme of things, it is an industry model that isn't necessarily sustainable for the future, nor does this industry have practices most people can accept at face value. Employing alternatives at local schools opens the door to potential options for our future that stray away from the traditional meat industry. As a school student

I hope you will consider passing Bill HB2083 because it is key to exploring alternatives for the future and supporting generations to come, even if it's a small step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Jake Sihavong

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:25:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Skyler Coloma | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and means,

My name is Sky Coloma and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

This bill states that starting with Mililani High School as one of the public schools to have plant-based meals will help with the health of many students. As someone who recently switched their diet, I agree that changing meals from processed foods to a more balanced meal with plant-based foods helps change a student's health outcome.

Most of the school lunches being served are foods that I'm unable to eat as I'm unsure of what the food consists of. Many of my friends have stated that they don't find the school lunches appetizing due to their rough consistency, and weird look, and they're hesitant to consume what's given to them.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because this will help schools have students more inclined to eat their school lunches. This bill can help many public schools move a step forward with the lunches they're giving out. As students are being introduced to balanced and healthy meals, it will get them accustomed to eating more healthy, but more importantly, delicious meals throughout their school day. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sky Coloma

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:13:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Casey Lauti | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Casey Lauti and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

During a recent trip to the Big Island of Hawaii, I had the opportunity to visit a local farm nestled in the lush countryside near Hilo. As I drove down the winding roads flanked by verdant hillsides and swaying palm trees, I was struck by the beauty of the landscape and the sense of tranquility that enveloped the area. One of the most memorable moments of my visit was witnessing the traditional Hawaiian practice of loi farming, or wetland taro farming. Kiana led

me to a tranquil patch of land bordered by glistening streams, where she and her family cultivated taro, a sacred staple of Hawaiian culture. I watched in awe as Kiana demonstrated the meticulous process of planting taro corms in the flooded fields, a practice passed down through generations. As we stood amidst the lush greenery, surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature, Kiana shared stories of her ancestors and their deep connection to the land. She spoke of the importance of preserving traditional farming practices and honoring the wisdom of indigenous Hawaiian knowledge. My visit was not only a journey through the vibrant tapestry of Hawaiian agriculture but also a poignant reminder of the vital role that local farmers play in nourishing communities, preserving cultural heritage, and stewarding the land for future generations. It was a humbling experience that left a lasting impression on me, inspiring a newfound appreciation for the beauty and resilience of Hawaiian agriculture.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because of several reasons—Hawaii is heavily reliant on food imports, with around 85-90% of its food being imported. This makes the state vulnerable to disruptions in shipping and supply chains, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Strengthening local food systems reduces this vulnerability and enhances food security for residents. Hawaii is prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. Local food production provides a buffer against disruptions caused by these disasters, ensuring that residents have access to fresh food even when external supply chains are disrupted. Supporting local agriculture boosts the state's economy by creating jobs, stimulating local spending, and circulating money within the community. It also reduces reliance on imported goods, which helps to retain wealth within the state. Local food systems typically involve smaller-scale, diversified farming practices that are often more environmentally sustainable than large-scale monoculture farming. Supporting local agriculture can help preserve Hawaii's delicate ecosystems, reduce carbon emissions associated with long-distance transportation, and promote biodiversity. Traditional Hawaiian agriculture and food practices hold significant cultural value. Supporting local agriculture helps preserve traditional farming methods, heirloom crops, and cultural foodways, contributing to preserving Hawaiian heritage and identity. Locally grown produce is often fresher and more nutritious compared to imported fruits and vegetables that may have been harvested days or weeks before reaching consumers. Supporting local agriculture can therefore contribute to improved public health outcomes in Hawaii. Local agriculture fosters connections between farmers, consumers, and communities. Farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and farm-to-table initiatives create opportunities for residents to engage with local food producers, strengthening community ties and promoting a sense of belonging. Overall, supporting local agriculture and strengthening local food systems in Hawaii is essential for promoting food security, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, public health, and community resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Casey Lauti

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:22:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sarai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Sarai Burdin and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414,

Due to the somewhat recent events of the Maui fires I have realized one thing, the best thing for Hawai'i is to be able to sustain itself on its own. We rely too heavily on mainland resources and money to keep us afloat, especially when it comes to food. Over 90% of the Island's food is imported from the mainland. This not only does nothing to boost our economy but also puts us in a vulnerable position in case a crisis happens and food is no longer able to be imported. I believe the best way to make Oahu more sustainable is to put more money into local farms and lands. If farmers have the space and money to make an assortment of crops and resources, the money made from those farms will eventually circulate back into the economy and boost it!

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No.2083 because I believe it is for the Island's best interest. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sarai Burdin

Mililani High School

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:44:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Justin Tilton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Justin Tilton and I am a senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Encouraging schools to incorporate locally sourced products into their meal programs offers a myriad of benefits for students, communities, and the environment. This initiative, which mandates the Department of Education to establish a recognition program for schools, aims to reach a goal of thirty percent locally sourced food in school meals by 2030. Such a move holds significant promise for fostering healthier diets, supporting local economies, and promoting environmental sustainability.

supporting local farmers and producers through school meal programs bolsters the regional economy. By purchasing from nearby suppliers, schools inject funds directly into the local community, helping sustain agricultural livelihoods and fostering economic resilience. This strengthens local food systems and reduces dependence on distant, large-scale food production and distribution networks.

Furthermore, incorporating locally sourced products into school meals has positive environmental implications. Shorter transportation distances for locally sourced foods reduce carbon emissions associated with long-distance transportation, mitigating the environmental impact of food supply chains. By embracing sustainable food practices, schools contribute to climate change mitigation efforts and promote environmental stewardship among students.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it is detrimental for society and the economy as a whole to move forward in a positive manner. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Justin Tilton

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:17:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Miki Haitzuka | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Miki Haitzuka and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. It is incredibly important that this bill passes to move towards the betterment of our land. Increasing the amount of local foods in school meals will help develop healthier habits in Hawaii students and provide them with more nutritious foods, rather than the industrialized, frozen food that is imported from the mainland. These foods are usually very processed which can contain harmful chemicals and antibiotics that are harmful for students and the environment, as they increase the risk of cancers and cardiovascular diseases as well as polluting our air. This bill also will give school's option to provide a plant-based meal for kids in school which will help student's health and our aina. Increasing the amount of locally sourced foods in our school lunches is

great but the farming of livestock and dairy products on our land is also harmful to the water and air on our islands. The high amount of cattle feces produced by cattle farming contaminates the water of streams near these farms and air in the surrounding area. Plant based meals will also help the nutrition of students eating it which is extremely important as the meals schools provide are some students' only source of nutrition during the day. These meals reduce the risk of higher blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, and some cancers. As an older sister and cousins of many young kids who will grow up in the future we are creating for them, I hope you will support this bill for the future of our kids and their environment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miki Haituka

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:20:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Aiko Burgos | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

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

Our names are Malia Matsuno and Aiko Burgos, and we are both seniors involved in the AP Environmental Science course at Mililani High School.

We are writing in support of the intent of H.B. No.2083, but would like to include suggestions to improve the enforcement of implementing more local food into our meals. We suggest providing schools with a clear checklist of how local food usage should be reported to avoid confusion when analyzing the data in the reports at the end of each year.

Through the research we've completed in class, we found out that Hawaii ships 90% of its food supply in from other parts of the world. Hawaii, with its distinctive environment and rich culture, deserves a food system that not only provides essential nutrition to students but also aligns with the principles of sustainability. Currently, the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch caters to approximately 100,000 students and staff daily. Unfortunately, the meals served consist of highly processed foods shipped from the mainland, reheated by cafeteria workers. As two students who have been enrolled in Hawaii public schools for more than 10 years, we've grown up with processed foods in our school meals. They are oftentimes greasy and bland, and due to that, a lot of it goes to waste. By establishing a streamlined process to report local food used in school lunches, it will encourage schools to participate in the data collection initiative highlighted in H.B. No. 2083, making the goal of 50% of local food in school lunches by 2050 even more achievable. We are advocating for a future where all students have access to nutritious meals that support our health, environment, and local farmers.

We hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 and including the aforementioned adjustments because it will greatly benefit Hawaii's keiki. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Malia Matsuno and Aiko Burgos Mililani High school

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:50:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kian Yamashita | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Kian Yamashita and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I believe that plant based meals and more vegetable/fruit options should be provided to students not only in support of vegetarians, but also other students who eat lunch on the regular that eat the same lunch very often. I personally do not get lunch everyday, but I have friends who get lunch everyday and I have seen the same 2 fruits and 2 vegetables along with the same 7-8 entrees. Providing students with more vegetation and fresh options gives them the opportunity to mix things up and not repeatedly eat the same apples and oranges.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will greatly benefit and be a large convenience for students here. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kian Yamashita

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:52:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Hannah Liu | Testifying for Mililani High School | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Hannah Liu-Kelly and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I am a student very interested in my own personal health. Ever since i was young my mom stressed the importance of plant based meals. Now, I realize how many health benefits plant based meals are; vitamins, fiber, and proteins are all found in plant based meals.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it will improve the health of all students. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hannah LiuKelly

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:56:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Gianna Brown and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. As you know, Hawaii is a special place, unique in its culture, environment, and way of life. Yet, as soon as you approach the school food in Hawaii, it has been wiped of any shred of culture; frozen and shipped across the ocean losing nutrients and flavor. Shipping our food across the ocean not only decreases the quality but also produces so much negative impact from the gas and diesel powering the ship. Yet the most simple solution tends to get overlooked, by supporting local foods within our school system will promote farmers, have a positive health impact, and increase the cultural inclusion into the food system because Hawaii is not like the mainland; it's beautiful and different and we should support that in every aspect.

Please consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because the future of our island resides in the youth, youth that should be supported not just mentally but physically by ensuring they have nutritious food from our land to be able to appreciate it. Passing H.B. No. 2083, will give us that opportunity to make a difference for our health, future, and community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gianna Brown

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:14:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Samuel | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Samuel Stockdale and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I believe that this bill will help to create multiple job opportunities in our community and that it will invest in and help build up the local economy. I would like to point out that buying food from other countries or states means our money is going out instead of staying on our island. Personally I enjoy eating locally sourced lunches and think that they are

better for the community. I eat school lunches almost every day and would love to have more local food in the lunches.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of how important it is to me, the community, and how much it will improve our island. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Samuel Stockdale

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:17:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kieran Florino | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Kieran Florino, a current 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of [S.B.No. 2414](#), As a high school student at Mililani High School, I observe the students who grab lunch everyday. I see plates that are almost full and untouched when being thrown away in the trash because the food is "unappetizing". I understand and give credits to the lunch workers for making lunch to feed about 2,600 students, but using imported foods from the mainland is not supporting the local farmers in Hawai'i. It's saddening to know that schools are buying GMO cornseed from Monsanto that were sued because they were spraying a cancer causing pesticide on their plants. The government buys cornseed from a company that spreads **CANCER CAUSING PESTICIDES** on their plants. Let that sink in. It's cheaper to ship it from the mainland because of the land resources they have, but we are an island, we have such limited resources. If we go on lockdown for shipping, we only have food to last us about 3-10 days; by purchasing products from local farmers, it is more sustainable and we would have access to fresher foods. By buying from local farmers, produce would be more fresh and provide more nutrients to students. As someone who doesn't eat the school lunch because the portions are too small, and it just isn't appetizing to me, I would eat the lunch if the school and government provided more local foods for me to eat. Others may argue that local food is too expensive which is understandable because farmers are a small business, but we could find other ways to make produce and foods that are not as expensive. At Mililani High School, we have an agricultural area where we can plant produce and its right on our campus where it is accessible to the chefs and cooks. An idea to support local farmers but not have it as expensive is maybe collaborate with them, contribute with them. Have students from different schools go a few times a month to help around the farm, possibly plant new seeds, help with crop work, harvest some plants, etc. By doing these actions the produce could possibly be a little cheaper, and to pay back these local farmers so they can grow more foods, the government and schools can give them part of the profit made from school lunches so they can continue to grow more crops. This has been an ongoing problem for years now, and the government needs to do something about it. Making Hawai'i sustainable is essential for future generations and our land.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because this has been an ongoing problem for years now, and now is a chance to change food systems, and make Hawai sustainable for future generations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Kieran Florino



LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:17:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jadelyn Pa'aluhi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jadelyn Pa'aluhi and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

I truly think that this bill should be passed because of the benefits it would have on students like me and my peers. By passing this bill, you would be allowing locally grown products to be served in school's cafeterias. I think that this would benefit local farms who could really use the money being used to buy fresh produce. I also think that this would improve many student's health when consuming school lunch. As someone who eats school

lunch everyday, sometimes the food isn't too great as lots of it is frozen products that are reheated the day of and served to us. I also think this would benefit the DOE, as more students and staff are likely to buy lunches when they can taste that the food they are eating is fresh. It is also a benefit to the DOE as they would be making more money off of students and staff purchasing lunches.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because of the great benefits it would provide to schools statewide. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jadelyn Pa'aluhi

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:18:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Darryl Valdez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15AM, Senate conference room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Darryl Valdez and I am an 11th grader, a Junior, at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1

The meals in Mililani High School are delicious, and the choice of fruits and veggies make it good, but after learning that the average meat and dairy products served in schools are highly processed and treated with antibiotics and growth hormones, which can impact health outcomes, I have decided to support the bill. Additionally, the school has barely provided actual plant-based meals, so changing into a plant-based diet for the student's health and safety is a very good choice made.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because students need a plant-based diet to fix their immunity systems and make it strong and healthy. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Darryl Valdez
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:22:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Exodus Ramos-Pacanزا | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Exodus Ramos-Pacanزا and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B. 2083 HD3 SD1.

The nature of having to get food from the mainland which could possibly allow for a loss of Hawaii's food agriculture is very problematic and it is almost concerning that a requirement that addresses this problem through pushing for sustainable plans was not established before. Having Departments of education submit and promise plans working towards local farm to school meal goal is very necessary and viable for the future of our state. Being almost entirely reliant on the

mainland for food, we should ensure that, if that main source of food is ever cut off, the wellbeing of Hawaii will not be negatively impacted. Now, this call for a solution to this detrimental dilemma has a chance to be fulfilled through H.B. 2083 and its work group.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because our future of a sustainable and beautiful state depends on it. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Exodus Ramos-Pacanza,

Mililani HighSchool

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:24:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric Stephens | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this Bill

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:25:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jake Eto | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Jake Eto and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. I believe that it is important to pass this bill as it will not only benefit me as a student at Mililani High School, but also the entire island as well. By having our school meals be provided locally, that may ensure that our food will be more fresh. I will say that our school lunches are pretty bad as they sometimes come off as cold, or just really unappealing as they are not fresh at all. If the meals were given locally, that means that the foods will not be as unappealing and will also make us as students happier during lunch time. Even by considering the price of how much it would cost, I feel that there is enough budget as we already pay a lot in taxes, and if there is enough funding to fund a rail, then there is enough funding to make school lunches just a bit better. I hope

you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because I would very much love good school lunches for once. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jake Eto

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:27:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elton Su'e | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Elton Saole-Su'e and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1. As a proud native of Hawaii, born and raised amidst the lush landscapes and vibrant communities of our islands, the preservation and enhancement of Hawaii's food systems are matters deeply close to my heart. Growing up in Hawaii, I have witnessed firsthand the connection between our people, our land, and our food. Our islands boast a rich agricultural heritage, rooted in traditions passed down through generations. However, in recent years, we have seen increasing challenges threatening the sustainability and resilience of our food systems. S.B. No. 2414 presents an opportunity to address these challenges and chart a path towards a more robust and resilient food future for Hawaii. By supporting local farmers, promoting agricultural

innovation, and fostering community partnerships, this bill lays the groundwork for a more sustainable and equitable food system. As a member of the Hawaii community, I understand the importance of preserving our agricultural lands, supporting local farmers, and ensuring access to fresh, nutritious food for all residents. S.B. No. 2414 aligns with these values and represents a significant step forward in safeguarding the future of Hawaii's food systems. I urge you to consider the long-term benefits that S.B. No. 2414 will bring to our islands and to our people. By investing in our agricultural sector and prioritizing food security, we can create a brighter and more resilient future for Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this crucial issue, and for your dedication to serving the best interests of our beloved state. I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD2 because of these statements. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elton Saole-Su'e

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:32:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Travis Keona Young | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Travis Young and I am a 12th grader (or Freshman, Sophomore, etc.) at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

Your personal testimony here, patterns in history have shown that during lockdown, crises, or stopped or delayed shipments have proven that it's detrimentally thrown communities into disarray causing collapse of the economy or local systems.

I hope you will consider passing H.B.No. 2083 HD3 because I am concerned about how much money we are wasting money on bills that could be improved upon a large amount money isn't wasted due to loss of majority of money due, shipping non sustainable way that causes to be taken away economy and community, big foreign organizations. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Travis Young

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:33:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| erica fox Roberts | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15AM, Senate conference room 211

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083 HD3 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on ways and Means,

My name is Erica Roberts and I am a 12 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083 HD3 SD1.

In class we have been learning about food waste reduction by composting. This taught me how crucial it is to recycle our foods because I learned how we have so much food waste yet food insecurity at the same time. The bill notes that it is to create resiliency with community health and well being. With this being said it is wrong for our biggest crop to be genetically modified corn which does not benefit our community's health. Locally

supporting nearby farmers and reducing the environmental impact of long-distance food transportation is how we can have a sustainable food system. As an upcoming adult I worry what life will be like in many years if we do not start building a sustainable food system now, and what me and my family will eat if there is an unexpected disaster that could delay our transported food from getting here.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 HD3 because it is a comprehensive piece of legislation that has the potential to bring about positive and lasting change in our food system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erica Roberts

Mililani High School