

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/07/2024

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Agriculture & Food
Systems

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2083 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program.

Department's Position:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department would request clarification around the definition of "plant-based options" to better understand how we could meet the USDA's National School Lunch Program federal guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

February 6, 2024

TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 2083, RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Asuega and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2083, 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, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2083. 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:ss

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:09:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this bill!

Incentivizing more local food and plant-based options in schools will lead to better student nutrition and health, provide markets for local farmers, and mitigate climate impact of importing foods from far away, especially non plant-based. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii, Clean The Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB 2083. Eventually, we would like to see all Hawaiian citizens eating locally grown, organic food. Here's why: Lower carbon footprint, tastes better, more healthy, better for the environment, creates local jobs, keeps money in Hawaii, food security, no plastic packaging.

This bill is a good first step towards that goal.



House Committee on Agriculture

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2023 9:30a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.



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.

Please support HB2083.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
When We Shine Foundation, Melinda Caroll	When We Shine Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Melinda Carroll, Executive Director, When We Shine Foundation

www.whenweshine.org

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:31:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Local food helps supply the local farmers with much needed cash and in turn helps our local economies thrive. It is important for students to taste the local foods important to the Hawaiian culture. The foods are fresh and easy to use. The nutritional value is high in locally sourced foods.

Food imported from far-away states is often older, has been irritated and sits in distribution centers before it gets to the school. NO ONE WANTS TO EAT THAT FOOD!

We need to stop our reliance on imports for our food. Let's grow it and keep it here for for our communities.

Please support and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



To: The House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems (AGR)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 9:30 am

In strong support of HB2083

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and AGR Committee members;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HB2083

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers steward over 20% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments on HB2083** which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools 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."

Hawaii's students are among the most physically active – this is due in part to our year-round outdoor lifestyle. One of the most important nutrients for growing adolescents is protein and beef provides one of the most complete sources of protein, containing all nine essential amino acids. Additionally, 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.

Our local ranchers provide a wholesome, nutrient-dense food for our communities. At the same time, they steward over 20% of Hawaii's land and contribute to the economic, environmental and social sustainability of our island state.

We believe that a variety of diets can exist and that plant-based meals can be offered without the disparaging language towards local beef and other high quality meats.

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 and our lands. 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.

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

Lisa Wood, DVM

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Animal Health and Well-being Chair



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB2083

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 9:30 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, 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



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 6, 2024

Subject: *HB2083 - Relating to School Meals*

Aloha Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloa, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems,

We are writing **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2083**, which empowers the Department of Education to create an incentive initiative encouraging schools to devise a strategy aimed at achieving the local farm to school meal objective of having thirty percent of their food offerings sourced locally by 2030 while also requiring public high schools to provide plant-based meal options.

We are testifying in favor of **HB2083** because it would benefit our agricultural sector through the procurement of locally sourced foods in school meals while also providing nutritious meals to students which can support better learning outcomes. This bill has the potential to create a demand for locally sourced fruits and vegetables, provide access to nutritious foods to the thousands of children in the public school system, and decrease dependence on imports.

We urge the committee to pass HB2083. We would like to thank Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloa, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems for considering the comments herein.

Mahalo,
Janine Mariano & 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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 6, 2024

Subject: *HB2083 - Relating to School Meals*

Aloha Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloe, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems,

We are writing **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2083**, which enables the Department of Education to establish an incentive program to encourage schools in devising 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 meal. 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. We would like to thank Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloe, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems for considering the comments herein.

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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

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.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:34:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jeannette Gurung

Executive Director, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

Kailua Kona, HI

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai



Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems 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 setting a goal for thirty percent of school meals to consist of locally sourced products by 2030, we are actively promoting the growth and sustainability of our local agricultural industry. Establishing a recognition program to incentivize schools to participate in the farm-to-school meal program will not only benefit our local farmers but also improve the health and well-being of our students.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaipo S.K. Kekona".

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:48:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

February 5, 2024
9:30 A.M., Conference Room 325
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No. 2083, supporting a recognition program alongside plant-based options for farm-to-school initiatives

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

My name is Cade Kawae and I am a twelfth grader at Mililani High School. I am in support of H.B. No. 2083, supporting a recognition program alongside plant-based options for farm-to-school initiatives.

As a high schooler who often relies on school lunches, I believe that the food that us students consume can be improved. Analyzing the food that receive, a lot of it comes from imported sources from large industries that produce atmospheric and solid pollution. Additionally, much of the portions in school lunches are meat and grain products, which albeit is a good source of protein and nutrients, is also a contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that promoting a more plant-based diet in lunches will provide business for small farms and other locally sourced agricultural businesses. That way, we can rely on imported goods less all the while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Incentivizing schools to take part in such a program with a recognition system will also see more participation among schools and more healthy lunch options being consumed by students. Personally speaking, I know for a fact that students will often try to avoid fruits and vegetables simply because they don't look appealing or taste good. However, providing plant-based options, perhaps even providing plant-based meats, without the option of actual meat will prompt students to choose from only plant-based foods. With a confident push towards changing our school's lunches within Hawaii, I believe that this will benefit schools not only today, but in the near future as well.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 as it will improve the diets of students state-wide and will assist the state of Hawaii in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Cade Kawae

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:34:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

I moved here to Hawaii a year and half ago. Since living here I have taken a marine biology class as well as an AP environmental science class. These classes have taught me so much about environmental issues and research as well what causes these issues and solutions to climate change. One of the first assignments that we did was writing a letter to our great grandchildren. In my letter I wrote about how I hope that they are able to experience the beautiful vibrant sunsets that I get to see, I hoped they say could snorkel the reefs and see them full of life, but most importantly I wanted them to look back and thank my generation for putting in the work to preserve the environment so they could experience those amazing things. The best way that we can help preserve the world that we know today for our great grandchildren is by changing our diets. The industrial meat industry is one of the biggest carbon emissions sources in the world. This bill is intended to implement more plant based meals into school lunches. Starting this program at schools will introduce a new diet centered around locally sourced fruits and vegetables to the younger generation. If that generation grows up eating less animal products and meats they will hopefully continue eating like that for the rest of their lives helping improve the overall well being of the environment.

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

Sincerely,

Hailee Reason

Mililani High School

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:57:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selah levine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is important for our children and our environment to eat locally grown food.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:00:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:28:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:31:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

Submitting a plan to achieve the legislatively proposed goal of local food procurement is essential. Things like this will not happen without work and developing a plan is essential to making sure that our local farmers have the time and resources to build towards the production capacity required.

Mahalo for the chance to testify. Please support and pass this bill.

Aloha nō,

- Joe

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:36:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

I hope you are well! I am writing to encourage you to please support HB 2083. Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods. Unfortunately, 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Molly Mamaril

Kaimuki, Oahu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:37:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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 long distances.

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

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ezgi Green, Waialua

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:42:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayven Okuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:47:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:49:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha- Let's help both our farmers to produce food and our students to have the freshest food available. It's a win-win bill. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Judy Mick

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:50:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Borden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mariah Borden, Anahola

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:58:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maggi Quinlan, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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 Hawai'i'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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Maggi Quinlan, PhD

Kapaa, HI

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:08:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ioha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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 Hawai‘i’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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
9:30AM, House Conference Room 325
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

My name is Zandra Cuaresma and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of the intent of H.B.No. 2083.**

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

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:41:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Anna Camacho, Kaimukī

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:43:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill which provides fresh local food for our children while also helping our farmers.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:54:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Doktor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha `Āina e Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. I support as a former DOE teacher and parent who saw incredulous waste and poor quality with school meals, but also the potential! 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your commitment to upholding the public interest.

Pete Doktor

Moanalua

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:01:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Didriksen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Harley Didriksen, Honolulu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

A

Ioha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Monica Moore, Kapaa, Kauai

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:06:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Yes I support this very strongly

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:15:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB2083. And I wholeheartedly agree with the following because "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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083."

Mahalo Michelei Tancayo

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:23:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2083 because it will create farm to school produce for our children. The Department of Education is the largest employer in the state of Hawaii and they are responsible for our childrens education and well being for 12 years of their lives.

Providing locally sourced produce for our schools will provide our children and staff with the highest quality foods that is grown right here. It will provide income for local farmers and set Hawaii up to truely become food secure in the near future.

Please make sure that the foods that are grown and given to our children is non-gmo and restricted use pesticide free. If our food is grown sustainably and traditionally in Hawaii, then there is no need to ship food in or for preservatives to be used. Please make this bill a reality and help our kids to have healthy locally grown food on a regular basis as it should be.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:46:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

I am a resident of Kaimukī and I am writing to ask you to please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mariko Whitenack

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:30:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

MeleLani Llanes, Makakilo

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:31:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Walraven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2083. This law is required to bring our children, the future of Hawaii, healthy choices for their school lunch program. To date, the Schools' lunch programs have been terrible and hardly nutritious. Fresh is always better than frozen.

Protect our children by feeding them with nutritious food.

Thank you.

Roger Walraven

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:46:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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 Hawai‘i’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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jana Bogs, PhD, Naalehu, Hawaii

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:22:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local healthy food to schools! Of course!

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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 for 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Robert H. Pahia
Maui, Hawaii

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:04:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keke M.

Pearl City, O'ahu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:13:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Makekau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm to School is important for our Local economy and our childrens health.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:29:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits local agricultural and provides students with nutritious foods. Unfortunately 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo,

Carrie Brennan, Kapaa

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Diana Bethel

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:42:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
megan powers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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. Packaged foods have preservatives and food additives that are not actually food and do more harm than good when compared to locally sourced, nutrient dense, fresh food.

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

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Megan Powers

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:16:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucky Kanahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our legislators to move forward with this bill and i am in full support for a better more locally sourced of food for our keiki.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:31:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karyn Kanekoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2083 Farm to School.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:52:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:37:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mark Longo, Kamuela Hawaii

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:50:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB2083 which authorizes the Department of Education to establish a recognition program to incentivize schools to submit to the Department a plan for the school to reach the local farm to school meal goal of thirty percent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030.

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.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:54:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill HB 2083 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. Requires public high schools under the Department of Education to provide plant-based meals as an option under the school meals program.

Our commitment to producing local foods has lagged in a time when it should be gaining in momentum and efficiency. When I first started teaching in the DOE, the students were provided healthy foods which were community cognizant in cultural paths and what was seasonal to the area. There was also a relationship to the grower and the school. It is time to return to and strengthen these ties for the health and economy of our islands.

We need to leverage the power of public procurement to increase markets for Hawaii’s farmers and producers as one critical way Hawai‘i can support local producers while decreasing dependency on imports. We also need to reexamine the Federal \$\$ influence and control on how food is served (or not, what is served to our student communities.

This bill is a win/win for all and we need to seriously pay attention to what, how & when the DOE responds to the needs of their communities in feeding the children.

I SUPPORT THIS bill.

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:47:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brady Giusta	DOE - educator	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I have been an educator for over 25 years. I have taught and coached at Farrington High School the past 16 years. I am also the Area Director for Young Life Central Honolulu a non-profit that works with at-risk teens.

HB2083 is vital to the health of our keiki and communities. Many of our school meals are unhealthy and all of the food is shipped in from off island. It is crucial to have healthy, fresh meals for our keiki.

This bill benefits the whole community, our local farmers are able to sell quality produce to our schools. Our schools are able to serve fresher, healthier food to our keiki. Our keiki will be at less risk for obesity and diabetes which in return will take pressure off our health care system. This is bill is a win, win for our islands.

mahalo nui loa,

Brady Giusta

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:48:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

Just the other day I was talking to my school counselor and I mentioned the large amount of people who choose not to eat school lunch. She responded saying that this was a problem which she commonly observed. Many students at our school are not eating throughout the entire school day because school lunch is the only option they have, yet it doesn't include their dietary restrictions, or they wish it was more fresh and less processed. Not only does this bill support local farms and our 'āina, but it supports the 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

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:00:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

It's past time to stop feeding our children junk food and garbage they mostly throw out, and which is then given to pig fasmers.

Please support HB 2083.

Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods.

Mahalo

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:02:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jotis Russell-Christian, Hilo, Hawai‘i

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:16:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:22:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lela Kalama, Keaau, HI

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:04:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!
Lisa Hennessy, Princeville

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:25:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Thrasher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. This is important for our children to have plant based foods in school. It will help their mind, and bodies and will build a better community with healthy children. Good nutrition is very important and your consideration for this bill is appreciated . Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:28:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:51:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:29:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of this bill because I have seen many other schools that have salad bars and very healthy meals offered in very poor areas. Hawai'i has some of the best environments to grow these ingredients using very little money. It's ridiculous that this isn't already in place.

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:48:49 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. 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.

Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Danielle, Waialua

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:46:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
minda goodman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I support 2083 HB. Please count me.

Minda Goodman

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 2:55:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade McMillan-Chau	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

My name is Jade McMillan-Chau and I am a 12th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2083.

As an animal person, it truly broke my heart when I learned about the ugly truths of the meat industry. I wanted to vow to myself that I would cut back on meat because I didn't want to support the mass production of cows, chickens, and pigs. But I realised that I really can't escape it; there is meat everywhere, and it's hard to get a nutritious balanced diet when all I have access to is packaged and processed foods, and meat. I've also struggled with an eating disorder which made me deficient in certain vitamins and minerals, and made me weaker. And despite not wanting to eat a lot of meat, it became the only thing I could eat in order to gain some energy and life back. I do have little access to

fruits and vegetables, but not nearly enough access that I need. I want so desperately to be able to have easier access to foods that will make me feel stronger, and will help cut back the amount of emissions produced into the atmosphere.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because I have dreams and a life that I want to live, and I want to get healthier, as well as have peace of mind, that my choices are helping both me and my world. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jade McMillan-Chau

Mililani High School

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Vice Chair

H.B. No. 2083

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2024
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

In SUPPORT of HB2083 Relating to School Meals.

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

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

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

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

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

I, Ani Briley, am a supporter of HB2083.

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

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

Mālama pono,

Bonnie Parker
bonnie.parker@k12.hi.us

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

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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. Rep. Gates, I know you are familiar with the food desert that exists in your district and the dependence of youth in the community on school meals. Highly processed foods imported foods procured in our industrial food system means that they are directly impacting the health of our students and perpetuating support of 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. The long term benefits far outweigh the short-term potential inconvenience some may feel implementing this change will have on the current system.

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

Sincerely,



Mililani High School

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

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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 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,

Your Name
Mililani High School

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:09:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm not sure we are at this point yet. Since School Food Services Branch has only one menu for all schools, seems like it would be more important to incentivise the DOE to create a menu that would incorporate 30% local food purchasing by 2030. Unless the DOE now allows schools to create their own menus and purchase from local sources. This seems contrary to the way SFSB runs their school food program. Mahalo.

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

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

As someone who has 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. This bill has the opportunity to provide students with better food for us to eat and help my school reduce waste and create a better future for the Mililani community.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because of the strong positive impact that it can create for not only me and my school, but for the entire community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jayda Sakoda
Mililani High School

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 4:33:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

them is to help them become more aware of where their school lunches come from and the importance of eating sustainably. When I asked one of my younger sisters, who is in elementary school, where she thought her school lunches come from, she answered “from animals”. Although this is somewhat correct, it is not 100% organic since farms inject GMOs and other growth impacting substances. Those farms only care about getting as much “meat” as they can out to the public even if it risks those 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. This might also spark more interests in individuals to want to take care of the ‘aina and land that gives back to them.

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

Sincerely,

Kyra Kim

Mililani High School

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:36:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peleke Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Peleke Flores. I am involved with many schools and I support the need for this bill to build more opportunities to support our local farmers and to support healthy home grown food for our keiki. I support HB2083

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 5:55:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawai'i State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Payton Hiromoto

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:21:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Baptista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian working mother of 3 children with my husband, a resident of Aliapa'akai (Salt Lake), and a registered voter, I support HB 2083 RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:32:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,

**Aiden Dimaya
Mililani High School**

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

LATE

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Eliana Takara :)
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:43:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 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

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:57:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carlee Furukawa

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:06:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

My name is 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

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:13:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to be more sustainable. Plant based meals are healthier and often better for the environment.

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:32:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

A plant-based meal option is necessary for individuals who don't eat meat. When I get school lunch, I pay for the whole meal just to be able to eat a couple of sides. I also can't make home lunch every day. So, I often end up hungry at school since eating a meal at school isn't an option for me. 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.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because having quality options for school lunches is essential to academic performance and wellbeing. It impacts people like me who

can't eat the school lunch. Having a plant-based option for the student body will give people like me the option to eat school lunches.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Sincerely,

Reagan Botill

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:33:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sunissa Domingo

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:46:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jullia Young

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:58:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 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

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



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

Support for H.B. No.2083

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,
My name is Alyson Law and I am a 11 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083.

I am not a picky eater. I like eating anything or trying something new. But as for say, school lunch is just not that good. I used to eat school lunches from elementary to middle school and never ate anything after I had gotten into high school. I used to bring home lunch before which let me eat what I like. I should be eating school lunches right now in order to get energy for the rest of the day, but I just can't. Clearly, you can see we import food here for schools, etc., so most of the food is basically processed. I would like to see more local food other than imported food which is best to support the economy and help out local farmers. Another thing is about the plant-based option, I'd say it's a great way for those who are vegetarian, etc., so they would be able to at least have a full meal. Meal wouldn't have to be imported since meat production harms the environment as well. I would like to try plant-based things if I had to so I can be much healthier.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it's great for the well being of students and helps towards Farm To School. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alyson Law
Mililani High School

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

LATE

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Kubo
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:20:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Brynn Yonemori

Mililani High School

LATE

Aloha, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,
My name is Tori Lynn Yang and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am
testifying **in support of** H.B.No. 2083.

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.

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

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:43:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

As a student that is enrolled in AP Environmental Science (APES) at Mililani High School, I've recently learned a lot about the waste we produce and not only how it affects our land but our health as well. The majority of food that is provided here at our school is imported from the mainland and is usually loaded with a bunch of preservatives that ultimately make the food "unhealthier" in contrast to locally grown food. If we are able to have more farm to school meals in our everyday lunch program, it would not only be healthier for the students, but it would also be healthier for the land. School lunch is often dreaded by other students, and as an individual who gets lunch almost every day, I can often agree with how

they feel. It's often bland, sometimes cold, and just simply not good. With this being said, students, including myself, tend to throw away a lot of the food that is on our plates. If we had locally grown organic food, I have a feeling that we wouldn't throw much away, and even if we did, we would have an easier time composting this mass of food waste. This compost can also lead to opportunities for more student involvement within the school with things like clubs (Hui Malama) or just simple classes like agriculture. Locally grown food can really help this community thrive; Classes, school, and most importantly the students' health can all benefit from this one change.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because not only can it pave a way for better and healthier ways our schools can provide food, but it can also provide an opportunity for many students to be a part of something that could potentially save our land. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Taevin Xayaseang

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:12:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Miki Haitzuka

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:23:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

Meat has always 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. By employing alternatives at local schools, it opens the door to potential options for our future that stray away from the traditional meat industry.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it is key to explore alternatives for the future, even if it's a small step in the right direction. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jake Sihavong

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:55:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear AGR Committee,

I strongly support the goal of serving locally-sourced food at Hawai'i's schools. This goal supports local farmers as well as Hawai'i's keiki. It will bring more business to our hardworking local farmers, encourage more young people to consider farming as a career and will provide fresh produce for our growing children. Please support bill 2083.

Mahalo,

Jan Pappas

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 1:25:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB 2083. Supporting locally sourced food in school meals benefits our local agricultural sector, while providing students with nutritious, culturally appropriate foods, such as kalo and sweet potato. 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.

Investing in our food system and keiki in this way is part of truly building a resilient Hawai‘i. Please support this win-win for local food producers and students and pass HB 2083.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Ashley Galacgac, Honolulu, 96816

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 6:16:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sachi Nacario

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 6:38:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

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

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 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

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

LATE

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

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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 because it will greatly benefit the health of students and it is a very sustainable option for school meals. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kayden Anzaldo
Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2083

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:42:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackson Cosner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

9:30AM, House conference room 325

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2083

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

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

As a part of the school, I am a student athlete apart of the soccer team. Throughout this season, I have relied heavily on school lunch to get me throughout the day and to last me til my practice or game. At points throughout the season, I wouldn't feel great in the stomache and worry about what I ate for lunch. With a greater percentage in local products we consume, I believe that I could walk into training and games more confident, knowing that I ate a healthy lunch. Alongside with more plant-based options ever so often in the week, I wouldn't have to worry about facing any health consequences as I eat lunch.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2083 because it would strengthen the health of many students and allow school lunch to be more reliable. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jackson Cosner

Mililani High School