

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024
9:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2774, HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2774, HD1. This bill resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LATE

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/14/2024
Time: 09:15 AM
Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Agriculture & Food
Systems

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2774, HD1 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

Department: Education

Testifier Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill HB 2774 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill Resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2774, HD1

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:21:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

- **Support for clarification of discrepancies** between Act 175 and Act 176/Act 144.
- **Support for goal setting, creating benchmarks, and reporting** that will strengthen the efforts to reach the local food procurement goals.
- **Support for an increase in local procurement** by creation of a continuum of incremental goals through 2050. Every 5 years, a 5% increase in local purchasing.
- **Support for creating metrics** that can follow the Increased procurement of locally grown and raised foods for consumption by Hawai'i's students. Metrics that can measure positive impacts on keiki health, impacts on profitibility of our farming families and local value-added producers, and impacts on the overall development of Hawaii's sustainable food systems.
- **Mahalo for continuing to clarify and support the Hawai'i Farm to School Program, with measurable goals each year.**



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 — 9:15 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

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

Ulupono supports the intent of HB 2774 and offers an amendment. This bill resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the department of education and those of other state entities.

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

In order to maintain the legislative intent of both Act 175, SLH 2021, and Act 176, SLH 2021, we recommend removing the phrase "provided that the department of education shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph" on page 3, lines 13-14, of the bill in order to maintain the current interim goal for the DOE to meet 10% locally sourced meals by 2025. By holding each participating state department, including the DOE, accountable to interim goals, we believe that the state can be transparent and evaluate how best to support the success of each program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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

January 30, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2774
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

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

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2774, which resolves some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the Department of Education and those of other state entities.

HFB strongly supports the increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, poultry, and value-added products in our schools and state facilities. We support the State's Farm-to-School goal of 30% by 2030, in accordance with Act 175, SLH 2021 as well as the Farm-to-State goals established in Act 176, SLH 2021.

Increased purchasing by DOE and other state departments will help address food security and food sustainability by creating demand for local farm products which will result in farmers and ranchers growing more. It will also help provide more of Hawai'i's fresh and nutritious foods to our students and residents.

HFB is committed to working with the Department of Education and the other state entities to implement a procurement program that will allow Hawai'i farmers and ranchers to source more local products for Hawai'i's Farm to School and Farm to State programs.

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



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 13, 2024

Subject: *HB2774 - Relating to Local Agricultural Products*

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

Mahalo distinguished legislators for taking the time to review this testimony being submitted **IN SUPPORT** of **HB1540** which would resolve some of the discrepancies between the locally sourced food benchmarks for the Department of Education and those of other state entities.

This bill serves as a vital housekeeping measure to address discrepancies between Act 175 and Act 176/Act 144. This bill represents a crucial step forward in clarifying and aligning our legislative framework, ensuring consistency and effectiveness in our efforts to promote local food procurement.

The inclusion of requirements for goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting outlined in this bill will undoubtedly fortify our endeavors to achieve the local food procurement goals. By establishing clear targets and mechanisms for tracking progress, we can ensure accountability and drive meaningful change in our food procurement practices.

Furthermore, the bill's provision for a continuum of incremental goals through 2050 is commendable. Setting a trajectory for increasing locally sourced food procurement, with a 5% increase every five years for the Department of Education, ultimately aiming for a 50% locally sourced goal by 2050, demonstrates a long-term commitment to fostering a sustainable food system in Hawai'i.

One of the most significant benefits of this bill is the positive impact it will have on the health of our keiki and the development of sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. Increased procurement of locally grown and raised foods for consumption by Hawai'i's students not only ensures access to fresh, nutritious meals but also supports local farmers and promotes environmental sustainability.

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

We urge the committee to pass HB2774. We would like to thank Chair Cedric Gates, Vice Chair Kristin Kahaloe, and the House Committee of Agriculture & Food Systems,

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.



HIPHI Board

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

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

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

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

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

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

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

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

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

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

To: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloo, Vice Chair
Members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB2774 Relating to Local Agriculture Products

Mtg: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

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

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

This bill clarifies the differences between Farm to School (Act 175) and Farm to State (Act 176, Act 144) procurement goals. The requirements of goal setting, benchmarks, and reporting will strengthen the efforts to reach the Local Food procurement goals.

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

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2774.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Chase', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

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

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

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:22:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Matsuno	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates,

Chair Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:15AM,

House conference room 335 Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

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

We are writing in support of the intent of H.B. No.2774, but would like to include suggestions to improve the enforcement of implementing more local food into our meals. We suggest providing schools with a clear checklist of how local food usage should be reported to avoid confusion when analyzing the data in the reports at the end of each year.

Through the research we've completed in class, we found out that Hawaii ships 90% of its food supply in from other parts of the world. Hawaii, with its distinctive environment and rich culture, deserves a food system that not only provides essential nutrition to students but also aligns with the principles of sustainability. Currently, the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch caters to approximately 100,000 students and staff daily. Unfortunately, the meals served consist of highly processed foods shipped from the mainland, reheated by cafeteria workers. As two students who have been enrolled in Hawaii public schools for more than 10 years, we've grown up with processed foods in our school meals. They are oftentimes greasy and bland, and due to that, a lot of it goes to waste. By establishing a streamlined process to report local food

used in school lunches, it will encourage schools to participate in the data collection initiative highlighted in H.B. No. 2774, making the goal of 50% of local food in school lunches by 2050 even more achievable. We are advocating for a future where all students have access to nutritious meals that support our health, environment, and local farmers.

We hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 and including the aforementioned adjustments because it will greatly benefit Hawaii's keiki. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Malia Matsuno, Casey Lauti, Luci Wung, and Aiko Burgos

Mililani High School

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:22:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloha, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:15AM, House conference room 335

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

Our names are Aaryn Mounthongdy, Liam Yuasa, and Thomas Rosenbalm and we are students at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

Eating school lunch is avoided whenever possible. We've heard numerous complaints and desires for change to what the lunch once was under the Aina Pono program. Essentially, students want more local food in school lunches. Just today we spoke with multiple students who looked back with longing to the days in which we had local deserts. Even the every once in a while option for a completely locally sourced fresh dish was looked upon with praise and gratitude. Fresh food tastes better than food shipped from the mainland.

If there is one thing we would like to amend, is that we want one day of the week in which our meal is completely locally sourced. We know it can grow from there, and we really believe that this is an easier way to quantify how much locally sourced food each school uses, a day instead of a percentage. Not only that, it is also a more meaningful way for the students. We can eat foods we actually like. We admit it may take time, but we believe that waste would be much lower on days with local fresh meals than on other days of the week. We suggest Friday, as it is the last day of the week, and a good send off for the weekend, but any day of the week works just the same. Percentages of food cost may not see as much change as we would hope within school lunch, and it's not a number easily followed by students, which is why we propose having a certain local meal either along side or in place of the percentage requirements

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

We hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because of the direct impact it will have on the students of Oahu. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Aaryn Mounthongdy, Liam Yuasa, and Thomas Rosenbalm

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 10:32:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:15AM, House conference room 335

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

Our names are Elika Miyamoto, Keilana Tanigawa, Zoe Hirata, and Kira Murphy and we are Juniors and Seniors at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

We believe that our school system should have more locally grown food. As students, we have to eat the food the school provides everyday. Processed foods are not the best for our health, nor our environment, and economy. A lot of kids at school prefer to skip lunch rather than eat what the school provides. Foods that are imported are lower in nutritional value because of the process it takes to harvest, store, and transport them across long distances. To add on, maintaining the freshness of the food involves chemicals and artificial flavors or coloring. We think that introducing more local food to the school system would be very beneficial. This bill is just the first couple of steps in reaching the percentage goals already promised by 2030 for locally sourced food and continuing to increase this

percentage for years down the line. We would really hope to see more specific plans on how the local food will be implemented into our school systems and where we might receive the food from. I like how the bill speaks about having a “consistent, predictable pace.” Through this bill we are setting up future generations for more success to be able to support themselves through food that is within reach. We really hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because we want to learn how to use the resources our island provides us so that we can use it to change the course of food for future families and children. We want future students to be able to enjoy what they eat. We want to strengthen the health of Hawaii's land and our relationship with it. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elika Miyamoto, Keilana Tanigawa, Zoe Hirata, and Kira Murphy

Mililani High School

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

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:57 am

LATE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
9:15AM, House conference room 335
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

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

Our names are Brena Broxson, Kassidy Pascua, Bella Nakagawa and Hannah Liu-Kelly and we are respectively juniors and seniors at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774 HD1,

At Mililani High School we take pride in learning about what Hawaii was built upon and how we can help sustain the 'āina to keep certain traditions alive. We've learned the importance and urgency behind taking action and spreading accurate information on topics specific to locally grown produce. It is in our best interest that bills such as 2774 are taken into its entirety as many people including the students at Mililani High School depend on them for a bright future for us as well as other generations to come. With much appreciation, the intent of this bill is recognized, however if each department is responsible to ensure the use of local products why is the department of education specifically exempt from these obligations. How is this department specifically pardoned from these obligations when it should be prioritized the most. Reports and updates from school districts across the island on the percent of locally grown products and how much is spent on them may be out of date or false while communication needs to be strengthened between the DOE and local farmers for this said process to begin. Many programs were cut short and not picked up again after the pandemic, many delays and challenges have been stopping the DOE's efforts in increasing local ingredients in school meals. In order to change the outcome of our missed opportunities, we must align our goals to expand on them. If most aspects of a partnership or cooperative program will bring us closer or even higher than 18% by 2030, there is no plausible reason to hold back on taking it.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 HD1 because a timeline and ensured commitment to locally sourced food consistently taking over our schools as well as other public places provides reassurance that everyone is working towards Hawaii's resilience. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brena Broxson
Mililani High School

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:26:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00PM, House conference room 309

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774.

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

We are Skyler Coloma, Sarah Hayase, Sarah Johnson, and we are in the 11th and 12th grade at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

This bill allows for the purchase of locally grown foods and to be put in public school lunches under the HDOE. As students in high school, we can say that we aren't entirely satisfied with our current school food system. In our personal experiences, school lunches haven't felt sustainable to the environment. School lunches are processed foods that hurt the environment, as well as our well-being. It's seen as unappetizing and unappealing which drives students away from these lunches.

However, supporting the Farm-To-School program is a good way in getting students to get the nutrients they need; even going as far to support local farmers in Hawai'i. We wouldn't have to fully rely on imported food which makes our islands more sustainable, and students would be more interested in eating local food which reduces waste.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because without any change, we will continue to enable our unsustainable methods of feeding children in school. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Skyler Coloma, Sarah Hayase, and Sarah Johnson

Mililani High School

LATE

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:32:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

Nationwide, nutrition, healthy eating habits, and academics are three huge problems in the United States. It's generally hard to keep up with eating 3 meals a day, especially when trying to make it healthy and nutritional. Most people choose to skip meals, such as breakfast which is the most important meal of the day. People tend to do this because it's convenient, as no one has the time to pack something early in the morning. Seeing this is a problem, having more accessible food options in school could positively impact students in Hawaii.

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

The solution to the problem is the most important step. If people continue to stand around saying they want to see a change, but not do anything to contribute, we will never make an impact in student's lives. I believe that we should focus on incorporating locally grown produce into student's breakfast and lunch served in schools. Fruits and vegetables are key points in nutrition. They provide vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, and help you to maintain a healthy gut. If all students are able to develop healthier eating habits, starting

with their school meals they could end up integrating it into their eating choices at home. They could influence their parents and families to eat cleaner which will positively impact our economy. Not only will this benefit people's nutrition, this idea can also support local farmers. Most of our resources and produce are imported from the mainland making it hard for farmers to make a business. Allowing them to provide their produce to schools will open up a new opportunity and benefit Hawaii's economy as a whole.

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

Sincerely,

Rylee Tanita

Mililani High School

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:58 am

LATE

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:14:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:15 AM, House conference room 335

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

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

My name is Elisabeth Fujii and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

In my AP Environmental Science Class, we learned about the effect that the current food system has on our ‘āina. The carbon emissions from transportation and the mass production/manufacturing process are contributing heavily to the continued warming of the earth. We learned about the benefits of farm-to-school programs and programs like the ‘āina pono program. Seeing how using locally sourced foods in our lunches will benefit our environment has made me want to do what I can to support efforts to take steps toward a healthier and more sustainable food system. I think by passing H.B. No.2774 inconsistencies in the current reporting process will be improved upon and there will be better opportunities to achieve the goals of locally grown food being incorporated into lunches. The bill will put the current goals of working towards a more sustainable food system to work and ensure higher chances of seeing positive results.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because it will help us be one step closer to a sustainable, healthier system for the children and the environment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Fujii

Mililani High School

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

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:59 am

LATE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
9:15AM, House conference room 335
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, Our names are Joseph, Rylee, Kaylie, and Xander and we are seniors at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774, as we are high school students who care about Hawaii's public school food systems. We support the implementation of more locally grown foods into school lunches, increasing the percentage each year will ensure that this change will remain consistent over time.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 for the future generations of students, needing the proper nutrition to satisfy rapidly learning minds. We are hoping to see the DOE become more sustainable throughout the years and improve overtime. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph, Rylee, Kaylie, and Xander
Mililani High School

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:12:03 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:59 am

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

Comments:

Representative Cedric Gates, Chair

Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:15AM, House conference room 335

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774 HD1

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

My name is Bella Nakagawa and I am a Sophomore at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774, HD1.

As a student at a public school in Hawai'i, who eats the school lunch quite consistently, I feel that this is something that affects me. With more local food being produced in the lunches, as well as it being freshly made at our school, I think many people would be more inspired to eat the lunches. I know many of my friends don't eat lunch now because it doesn't seem appealing. Additionally, I've had conversations with other students and there have been concerns about the freshness of the food, how processed it was, and where it came

from. Not one of my peers knew where our food came from and was sourced, and many said they were discouraged due to the lunches seemingly being from packages.

If we source local food for public school lunches, my peers and I would feel more inclined to eat the lunch, and more inclined to participate and serve a local community that provides for us. Furthermore, this gives more room for the local economy to thrive.

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774. I, as well as many care about the community and the food that is being sourced in and from it. Please consider this bill for the children of Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bella Nakagawa

Mililani High School

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

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 11:00 am

LATE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
2:00PM, House conference room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774, S.D. __No.2774__.

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

My name is Jojo Wung, and I am an 11th grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 2774,

I am writing this letter to you to show my support of No.2774, however I believe that we need to make some revisions. I would like to include more local foods into our meals. As a student of Mililani High School, one of the most affected places by this, I want to eat a meal knowing I am supporting our economy and the farmers that worked hard to produce the food we take. To prevent any confusion, I suggest providing schools with a clear checklist that demonstrates the local food production to prevent any confusion in reports by the end of the year.

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

I hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 with our revisions so it can not only benefit us students, but also the people of Hawaii and for our island. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jojo Wung
Mililani High School

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 11:00 am

HB-2774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:45:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:15AM, House conference room 335

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.2774, S.D.

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

Our names are Justin, Patrick, Kian, Kaylene and we are Juniors and Seniors at Mililani High School. We are testifying in support of H.B. No. 2774 because we strongly believe that this bill can lead our community and the state of Hawaii to become less dependent on outside factors supporting our food and ecosystem which can be very scary and frustrating to many of us. This concerns us because in everyday situations we are affected by who, how, and what is supporting our lifestyle on a daily basis. From the foods we eat in school, only 6% of it is made locally, and studies show that Hawaii will only be able to sustain itself for 7 days without shipments of food. For a kingdom that was once built around the farming system, it is a disservice for our agricultural development to be depleted in a matter of decades. This will also support our farmers and help grow our economy. An article we came across published by the Civil Beat just yesterday (Feb. 12) said, “The department recently hired a farm-to-school coordinator last year... That would then mean farmers’ would have greater security, having DOE as an assured customer before they

even plant their crops.” (Heaton). Additionally, we believe that it will be less likely that farmers will have extra produce that they need to dump, or sell for significantly less money. We like the intent of this bill, but we argue that it should be altered in a way to be more effective such as having a higher authority or “teeth” that will enforce the DOE to do its part because in the same article, it states, “The Department of Education has blown past the deadline for a report intended to detail progress toward its mandated goal to buy more local food.” This led Rep. Amy Perruso to suspect that the DOE was “stalling so that we are not able to discuss the data during session.” Furthermore, we find it shocking that the article says Curt Otaguro, DOE Deputy Superintendent, “told lawmakers at a recent hearing that locally sourced food products accounted for 6.14% of the DOE’s spending last year, ‘a little backwards’ from its 6.2% in 2022.” Not just being at a standstill, but moving backwards was bewildering to hear. Lastly, on a side note, when our class studied this bill together, some expressed that the bill was slightly vague so revising this bill to be less vague will help too. We still hope you will consider passing H.B. No. 2774 because not only will it pave the way to be self-sufficient but it will ease the minds of us in the community and support our farmers. Mahalo, for the opportunity to testify and get the people involved.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yuasa, Kian Yamashita, Kaylene Lei Melchor, and Justin Sumaoang

Mililani High School