

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

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

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2774, HD2, SD1  
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

**Date:** 04/04/2024

**Time:** 10:15 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** HB 2774, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2774, HD2, SD1.

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:47:18 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Shapiro	Testifying for Hawaii Ulu Cooperative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill as it will help the Dept of Ed to better meet its local food procurement goals and ensure benchmarks and accountability. This will benefit the co-op's 150+ farmers located on four islands.



## Senate Committee on Ways and Means

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2774 HD2 SD1

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

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

HAPA **supports** HB2774 HD2 SD1, and requests that your committee pass this measure as is.

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.

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 HB2774 HD2 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director



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

April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2774, HD2, SD1**  
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:15 AM

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

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2774, HD2, SD1**, which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally sourced agricultural and food products.

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.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Thursday, April 4, 2024 — 10:15 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of HB 2774 HD2 SD1, Relating to Local Agricultural Products.**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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 HD2 SD1 and offers an amendment.** This bill modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education (DOE) to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 10:15AM  
Conference Room 211 & Video Conference**

**LATE**

**RE: HB2774 HD2 SD1 Relating to Local Agriculture Products**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB2774 HD2 SD1**, which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

The Chamber completed its 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii Initiative earlier this year. The vision was to create a data-based action plan to lead and shape Hawaii's economic future. We connected with stakeholders from business, government & community to shape goals and priorities and develop a strategy that presents achievable policy reforms and metrics to increase Hawaii's economic competitiveness.

As a part of the blueprint, stakeholders indicated that industry diversification, specifically within Hawaii's agricultural industries, is a key opportunity for growth in advancing the local economy and achieving greater food self-sufficiency. Farm-to institution partnerships stand to benefit Hawaii's local food systems and the overall economy. By increasing the procurement of locally-sourced agricultural and food products in our schools, we can support local farmers and provide nutritious and sustainable meals for our keiki.

The chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:53:41 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lillian Coltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keiki need healthy local foods and our farmers can grow it

**HB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:36:23 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

**HB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:58:56 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lydi Morgan Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to help clarify Hawai'i's farm to school meal goals. Mahalo for your support of farm to school!

**Date: April 2, 2024**

**To: WAM**

**From: Debbie Millikan**

**Re: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2774 HD2 SD1 Relating to Local Agriculture Products**

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

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

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2774 HD2 SD1 which sets goals, benchmarks and reporting to strengthen the efforts to reach the required local food procurement goals. I have worked with children in school gardens for the past 20 years and have seen firsthand how providing local, fresh foods in school lunches improves the health of our children and the health of Hawai'i's food system.

Please set the necessary guidelines by supporting this bill.

Aloha,

Debbie Millikan, Ph.D.

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:00:43 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 2774 HD2 SD1



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

**LATE**

April 3, 2024

Subject: *HB2774 - Relating to Local Agricultural Products*

Mahalo distinguished legislators for taking the time to review this testimony being submitted **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2774** 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.

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.

We urge the committee to pass HB2774.

Mahalo,  
Janine Mariano & Hawaii Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**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.