

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Sean Quinlan
Rep. Amy A. Perruso Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Click [here](#) to submit testimony and to testify remotely or in person.

A live stream link of all House Standing Committee meetings will be available online
shortly before the scheduled start time.

Click [here](#) for the live stream of this meeting via YouTube.

A G E N D A

HB 428 Status	RELATING TO FARM TO FAMILIES. Establishes the Hawaii Farm to Families Program to alleviate food shortages in the State. Requires reports to the Legislature prior to the Regular Sessions of 2026 and 2027. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN
HB 967 Status	RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS. Establishes the Statewide Interagency Food Systems Coordination Team and the Interagency Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN
HB 812 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Requires a contract for the purchase of local produce having a value of more than \$250 to be for a term of at least 5 years.	AGR, FIN
HB 1187 Status	RELATING TO PROCUREMENT. Phases in a ban on state departments administratively attached and agencies from purchasing imported flowers and lei.	AGR, FIN



HB 110, HD1 (HSCR40) Status	RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. Modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	EDN, AGR, FIN
HB 328, HD1 (HSCR45) Status	RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS. Requires the Department of Education to authorize and facilitate complex areas or individual public schools to form their own farm to school meal programs through partnerships to meet the local farm to school meal goal of thirty per cent of food served in the school to consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Allows the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal program no later than the 2026-2027 school year. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	EDN, AGR, FIN
HB 497, HD1 (HSCR43) Status	RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. Transfers the Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs Agency from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture and codifies its establishment. Establishes a grant program to be administered by the Agency to support the funding of certain initiatives for the State's public schools. Appropriates funds for grants. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)	EDN, AGR, FIN
HB 773 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Appropriates funds for grant specialist positions to assist farmers and ranchers in meeting the requirements to receive grants offered by the United States Department of Agriculture, State, counties, or private entities.	AGR, FIN
HB 776 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT. Establishes within the Department of Agriculture the Hawaii Agricultural Transportation Assistance Program, to consist of a reimbursement program and grant program, to assist certain farmers and livestock producers with transportation costs for agricultural products, inputs, supplies, and production and distribution of agricultural commodities. Requires reports to the Legislature.	AGR, FIN
HB 782 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Establishes within the Department of Agriculture a working group to review and make recommendations on amending or repealing unnecessary or obsolete laws pertaining to agriculture. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN
HB 968 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Healthy Soils Program. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN
HB 984 Status	RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS. Updates the agricultural loan program by lowering interest rates, increasing and standardizing loan limits, and reducing the number of credit denials. Authorizes the agricultural loan program to issue lines of credit. Creates a new class of loans to encourage large scale agriculture of import replacement crops grown for the farm to state program. Appropriates funds.	AGR, FIN



[HB 1393](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.
Requires the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the agricultural statistics program to collect data on local agricultural interests. Appropriates funds.

AGR, FIN

[HB 1450](#)
[Status](#)

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY.
Establishes a three-year climate-resilient food systems grant pilot program, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

AGR, FIN

DECISION MAKING TO FOLLOW

Persons wishing to offer comments should submit testimony at least **24 hours** prior to the hearing. Testimony received after this time will be stamped late and left to the discretion of the chair to consider. While every effort will be made to incorporate all testimony received, materials received on the day of the hearing or improperly identified or directed, may not be processed.

Testimony submitted will be placed on the legislative website. This public posting of testimony on the website should be considered when including personal information in your testimony.

The chair may institute a per-testifier time limit.

Committees meeting in the morning must adjourn prior to the day's Floor Session. Therefore, due to time constraints, not all testifiers may be provided an opportunity to offer verbal comments. However, written submissions will be considered by the committee.

Please refrain from profanity or uncivil behavior. Violations may result in ejection from the hearing without the ability to rejoin.

For remote testifiers, the House will not be responsible for bad connections on the testifier's end.

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov.

The livestream and/or cable TV broadcast of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation (including oral, written, or ASL interpretive services) or are unable to submit testimony via the website due to a disability, please contact the committee clerk at 586-8530. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of House Guidelines for remote testimony.

FOR AMENDED NOTICES: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are bolded.

For more information, please contact the Committee Clerk at (808) 586-8530.

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa
Chair

