



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

Date: 02/07/2025

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Agriculture & Food Systems

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0110, HD1 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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments on HB 110 HD 1.

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 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.

Additionally, the Department is assessing opportunities for more direct local procurement from farms, processors, and food hubs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
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 & FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 110 HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 110 HD1. This bill proposes adjustments to certain benchmark goals and a timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally sourced agricultural and food products.

The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill to align and address discrepancies in local food procurement benchmarks across various state agencies. We believe that establishing a standardized timeline and consistent targets provide an advantageous planning framework and enhance executive decision-making for all stakeholders involved in the *farm-to-state* purchasing supply chain for locally grown and raised food products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, 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. **HFU supports HB110.**

The adoption of HB110, aimed at advancing the Department of Education's procurement of locally-sourced agricultural goods, is a significant opportunity to bolster Hawaii's local agriculture sector. Hawaii Farmers Union stands in firm support of this initiative, as it promises not only to enhance the nutritional profile of student meals but also to invigorate the local economy by supporting our farmers. By prioritizing locally grown products, we can ensure the benefits extend across communities, supporting sustainability, freshness, and ultimately, the self-reliance of Hawaii's food systems.

However, it is critical to address the language concerns that have emerged with the shift from "produce" to "food" in Act 144 (2022). This change could inadvertently broaden the definition to include products that do not substantially benefit the local agricultural landscape. Current provisions that allow for products containing only 51% locally sourced primary agricultural components risk diluting the impact of the bill. Without clear verification methods for this percentage, and stringent conditions in purchasing contracts, such products may fail to provide significant financial or cultural returns to local farmers.

For better alignment with local food sustainability goals, it is recommended that the bill entirely remove HRS §302A-405.6. Additionally, updating reporting requirements to track the status of progress towards local procurement goals more accurately is essential. The department should specifically report on total spending broken down into consumable foods and produce—and particularly on single-ingredient local products that are unequivocally 100% sourced from Hawaii. This level of detail can ensure transparency and accountability, serving to

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawaii Farmers Union



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

February 7, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 110, HD1
RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 110, HD1, 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.



HIPHI Board

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Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 6, 2024

To: Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

RE: Support for HB 110 Relating to Agriculture Products

Hrg: Friday, February 7, 2025, at 9:30 am, Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 110, which seeks to standardize and strengthen benchmarks for the procurement of locally sourced food across state institutions. By aligning these targets, HB 110 ensures a consistent and predictable approach to increasing local food sourcing, fostering greater economic resilience, sustainability, and public health benefits for Hawai'i's residents.

Food systems play a critical role in public health, and access to fresh, locally grown food is fundamental to improving nutrition and preventing chronic diseases. Currently, different state agencies operate under varying procurement targets, creating inconsistencies in implementation and limiting the ability of local farmers and food producers to scale up effectively. HB 110 addresses this issue by establishing a clear and cohesive framework across key departments, ensuring that the Department of Health, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Defense, and the University of Hawai'i System move forward with a shared vision for increasing the use of Hawai'i-grown food.

This bill strengthens Hawai'i's local food economy by creating a more coordinated and stable demand for local agricultural products. Farmers and food producers will have greater assurance that state institutions will purchase their products, allowing them to plan and invest in their operations with more confidence. Keeping food dollars within the state supports local businesses, creates jobs, and contributes to a more sustainable agricultural sector. Reducing reliance on imported food also mitigates the risks associated with supply chain disruptions, economic fluctuations, and natural disasters, making Hawai'i's food system more resilient.

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.



HB 110 also significantly advances food security and equity. Many of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations, including students, hospital patients, and incarcerated individuals, depend on state-provided meals. Ensuring these meals contain more locally sourced, nutrient-dense foods supports better health outcomes and reduces dependence on highly processed, imported alternatives. Increasing the share of local food in schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities benefits individual health and fosters a stronger connection between communities and Hawai'i's agricultural heritage.

Hawai'i's heavy dependence on imported food—estimated at 85–90% of the state's supply²—poses a serious challenge to sustainability. Investing in local food systems is essential for reducing this reliance and lowering the state's carbon footprint. HB 110 is necessary to reinforce food sovereignty and ensure Hawai'i can provide for its people, even in times of crisis.

For these reasons, HIPHI supports HB 110 and urges the committee to pass this measure. This bill will help build a more resilient, sustainable, and health-conscious food system for Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this measure and the opportunity to testify in support of HB 110

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kawika Kahiapo', written over a horizontal line.

Kawika Kahiapo
Hawaii Farm to School Network Program Coordinator
Hawaii Public Health Institute

² OFFICE OF PLANNING, et al. "INCREASED FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY." *HAWAII STATE PLAN*, report, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2007, files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair

Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

HB110 HD1

RELATING TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Friday, February 7, 2025, 9:30 AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB110 HD1** which modifies certain benchmark goals and timeline for the Department of Education to provide locally-sourced agricultural and food products.

We appreciate this bill's intent to align and clarify the local food purchasing benchmarks across state departments. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the purchasing of locally sourced food, and Hawaii's ranchers are ready to contribute to that by providing local beef, a nutritious protein. Hawaii's locally grown beef provides 10 essential nutrients in a single 3 oz. serving. This includes high-quality protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins. These nutrients are especially important for the development of young, active growing children.

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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

